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General Manoj Pande assumes charge as Chief of the Army Staff
page 9

ED seizes ₹5,551 crore from Xiaomi India for FEMA violation
page 9

Russia pounding Kharkiv and eastern Donbas, says Ukraine
page 12

Dhoni back as CSK skipper as Jadeja relinquishes captaincy
page 17

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NEARBY

BMRCL to acquire 9,000 sq.m. of defence land

BENGALURU

BMRCL is acquiring over 9,000 sq.m of defence land for the integrated metro station at Iblur on the Outer Ring Road. The proposed station will link the ORR-Airport metro line and Sarjapur to Hebbal metro line

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

COVID-19: State sees lower fatalities in April

BENGALURU

While there is an uptick in COVID-19 cases in the past few days in Karnataka, deaths have remained low this month. Six deaths were reported in April. While March saw 97 succumbing to the disease, 901 and 716 deaths were reported in February and January, respectively.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Id holiday tomorrow

BENGALURU

Following the Moon Committee's decision to celebrate Id on May 2, the State Government has declared holiday on Monday. As per the Negotiable Instruments Act, the Govt. has decided to declare a public holiday on May 2, said a Government notification. Earlier, May 3 was declared a public holiday for Id.

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 2 & 6
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES

Governments ignoring court orders, says CJI

'Contempt petitions pose new burden on judiciary'

SANDEEP PHUKAN
KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The sheer "defiance" of governments towards judicial pronouncements, their inclination to pass off the responsibility of decision-making to courts and the legislature's ambiguity, lack of foresight and public consultation before making laws have led to docket explosion, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana said here on Saturday. These have forced the judiciary to dabble in policy to render justice to the common man, he said at a joint conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The CJI pointed to how courts, already overburdened, had to deal with the "new problem" of "contempt petitions" triggered by the "deliberate inaction" of governments that chose to ignore judgments and orders. "The contempt petitions are a new category of burden on the courts, which is a direct result of the defiance by the governments. Deliberate inaction by the governments, despite judicial pronouncements, is not good for the health of democracy," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana in New Delhi on Saturday. • R. V. MOORTHY

PM for use of local languages in courts

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The government was working to draft laws not only in sound legal terminology but also in popular language that makes it easy for citizens to understand the law, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday. He also urged the State governments to repeal "obsolete and archaic laws".

At the joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts, he said that nearly three-and-a-half lakh undertrials were in jails for petty offences, and appealed to the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices to give priority to such cases so that such prisoners could be released on bail. "I would appeal to all of them to give priority to these matters on the basis of humanitarian sensibility and the law."

Mr. Modi spoke on the need to use local languages in courts, stressed moving towards digital delivery of justice systems and importance of mediation and reiterated his government's effort to improve judicial strength and infrastructure.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9
STATES' ASSURANCE ▸ PAGE 11

New scheme to help owners create their own land sketch

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Private landowners are now empowered to create land sketch of their property under Svavalambi scheme to simplify and speed up the process.

This enables landowners to sell their property, get tatkal podi for subdivision of private land, pre-conversion sketch to help convert agricultural land for non-agricultural purpose and partition land among the persons having legal rights.

Revenue Minister R. Ashok said that at present owners wait from six months to a year to get their work done, whereas the new system enabled owners to get approval for land sketches within 10 days from the authorities.

Every year, the department received 10 lakh applications for conversion of land and more than six lakh applications were pending approval.

The Minister said that landowners in rural areas could seek the help of authorised surveyors, architects, civil engineers or anyone else to create a land sketch. Farmers could also visit Nada Kacheri offices for it.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 7

12 Janpath may become the address of a former President

House may go to President Kovind, if he demits office

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

With little over two months to go till the country gets a new President or the incumbent gets a second term, preparations are on for a post-retirement home for President Ram Nath Kovind

EXCLUSIVE

at 12 Janpath – one of the largest bungalows in Lutyens' Delhi – should he demit office, sources said.

Renovation of the house, which had been home to Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan for over three decades, is in full swing.

Paswan's family continued to stay there after his death in 2020. In March, the Centre evicted the family after initiating proceedings in January 2021. According to two sources aware of the development, the house is now being readied to welcome Mr. Kovind and his family, though it has not been allotted yet.

Renovation under way at 12 Janpath in Delhi. • R. V. MOORTHY

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

After sizzling April, temperatures in May to be high in north, west

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

April temperatures over northwest and central India were the highest since 1900, and May too is likely to see above normal temperatures over north and west India. The rest of the country is unlikely to see levels touched in March and April, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"During May, above normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of northwest, central, east and northeast India. Normal to below normal minimum temperatures are likely over the south peninsular India and a few pockets of northwest India," the weather agency said in a statement on Saturday.

Heatwaves in May are likely to persist over Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, IMD Director-General Mrutunjay Mohapatra said at a press briefing.

April this year has been India's fourth hottest since 1901 while northwest and central India experienced their warmest April in 122 years. During April 1 to 28, the average monthly maximum temperature over northwest India was 35.9 degrees Celsius, he said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

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Some PGI Authorised Retailers: Bangalore: Avenue Road: Davanam Jewellers 43438383 | Merlecha Diamonds 9845047201 | **Banashankari:** Tanishq 26691687 | **Bannerghatta:** Tanishq 45612222 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 41489916 | **Basaveshwaranagar:** Mukesh Jewellers 23408685 | **Commercial Street:** C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons 25588731 | Davanam Jewellers 41418181 | Sri Krishna Diamonds 40301111 | **Dickenson Road:** AVR Swarna Mahal Jewellers 25540007 | Bhima Jewellers 25065075 | Jos Alukkas Jewellery 25552280 | Joyalukkas 25093916 | Kalyan Jewellers 25550533 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 41283916 | ORRA 9343070999 | Sulthan Diamonds & Gold 25596916 | Tanishq 25550907 | **HBR Layout:** Bhima Jewellers 25447711 | **HSR Layout:** Neelkanth Jewellers 46963800 | **Hood:** Bhima Jewellers 8970796928 | **Jayanagar:** AVR Swarna Mahal Jewellers 26547007 | Bhima Jewellers 41301761 | C. Krishniah Chetty & Sons 66379822 | GRT Jewellers 22450777 | Jos Alukkas Jewellery 32942120 | Josco Jewellers 41666842 | Joyalukkas 26634448 | Kalyan Jewellers 26647733 | Khazana Jewellery 41539900 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 41526995 | ORRA 9341903803 | Prince Jewellery 42649999 | Reliance Jewels 41681808 | Sulthan Diamonds & Gold 26534916 | Tanishq 65606561 | **Kammanahalli:** GRT Jewellers 25461515 | Kalyan Jewellers 8792851933 | Joyalukkas 25035900 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 25421916 | Tanishq 43078900 | **Koramangala:** Bhima Jewellers 25537762 | Kalyan Jewellers 25636833 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 25532916 | Reliance Jewels 41244551 | ORRA 9731604260 | Senco Gold & Diamonds 41411197 | Tanishq 45462222 | **MG Road:** Abaran 25328600 | Joyalukkas 25589916 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 66929916 | **Malleswaram:** Bhima Jewellers 49767711 | C. Krishniah Chetty Jewellers 41001869 | Davanam Jewellers 41416161 | GRT Jewellers 22921515 | Joyalukkas 23466916 | Kalyan Jewellers 23360633 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 23467916 | Tanishq 23465402 | **Marthahalli:** Bhima Jewellers 28546611 | GRT Jewellers 25401515 | Joyalukkas 25073800 | Kalyan Jewellers 46837079 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 48354916 | Tanishq 43007773 | **Phoenix Market City:** C. Krishniah Chetty Jewellers 67266697 | Joyalukkas 49626678 | Kalyan Jewellers 49626533 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 32325916 | ORRA 9686186916 | Senco Gold & Diamonds 67266340 | Tanishq 67266400 | **Prestige Forum Shantiniketan:** Tanishq 25018171 | **Rajaji Nagar:** Abaran 23598600 | Bhima Jewellers 23527712 | Jos Alukkas Jewellery 32956816 | Malabar Gold & Diamonds 49227916 | Sri Ganesh Diamonds and Jewellery 23488459, 23326359 | **Richmond Road:** Neelkanth Jewellers 22278846 | Nakhaz 22103266 | **Sadhasivanagar:** Sri Ganesh Diamonds and Jewellery 23362355 | **Whitefield:** Tanishq 25018171 | **Yelahanka:** Tanishq 68037426 | **Tumkur | B H Road:** Malabar Gold & Diamonds 2254916 | **Forum Shanti Niketan Mall:** ORRA 7720082327 | **Forum Koramangala Mall:** ORRA 7720082442 | **J.P. Nagar:** Abaran 29908600 | **KR Puram:** GRT Jewellers 29901515 | **RR Nagar:** GRT Jewellers 23341515 | **Vijayanagar:** Praveen Jewels 40924995

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B. Tech. & 5-year Integrated M. Tech. (Thanjavur & Kumbakonam Campus) (Rs 650)	70% of seats on the basis of normalised +2 aggregate marks & JEE (Main) - 2022 Scores	August 13, 2022	Call letter for counselling will be sent by email
	30% of the seats on the basis of normalised +2 aggregate marks		
5-year integrated B.A., LL. B. (Hons.) / B.Com., LL. B. (Hons.) / B.B.A., LL. B. (Hons.) (Rs 650)	Based on normalised +2 aggregate marks and CLAT-2022 Scores	July 30, 2022	
M.Tech. / M.B.A. (Rs 650)	Test & Interview for MBA & UG Scores for M.Tech. Preference to GATE Qualified Candidates for M.Tech. with monthly stipend	Rolling Admissions based on +2 Marks / UG Scores or Exam Scores	
Other Programmes (Rs 350)	Based on qualifying degree / +2 marks		

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Golden grain: Farmers drying harvested paddy along the Sunguvarchatiram-Walajabad road at Kattavakkam in Kancheepuram district.

A temple town's paddy fields

Kancheepuram, known for its exquisite silks, is a major producer of paddy

VELANKANNI RAJ B.

Kancheepuram evokes the image of exquisite silks, but the temple town in Tamil Nadu is also a major producer of paddy.

The crop is raised on over 50,800 hectares of land in the district, around 58 km from Chennai.

Since October 1, around 46,280 tonnes of grain were procured by the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation, which buys the crop from individual farmers through its 67 direct purchase centres in the district. Because of good rainfall, this year's yield has already surpassed the previous year's output of 24,000 tonnes, and Agricultural Department officials expect more by the end of June.

Post-harvesting processes were traditionally carried out on open lands near temples known as *kalam* (ground), but they are now carried out on roads in almost all parts of the district.

Farmers in the district expect the government to assist them in finding a solution to the issue as that will increase the district's output rate.

V. Baskar, president of Kancheepuram Farmers' Association, said, "The district farmers seek more grounds for storing paddy produce. The farmers also want subsidy from the State government for purchasing drying machines."

The removal of moisture from grains is being carried out on open land near temples.

As there is a lack of open grounds, the farmers are forced to do it along the roads. The farmers demand more open land for the same.

Paddy dunes: Mounds of grain at Nathanallur.

Under the stars: Harvesting goes on at night at Nathanallur.

Man and machine: Harvest at Thollazhi village.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that Original Sale Deed 28.03.2014 registered as document No 14083/2013-14 of Book-I, CD.No.BSKD262 in the office of the Sub-Registrar Basavanagudi (Banashankari) Bangalore in respect of Property Flat No.403, measuring SBA 975 Sq.ft., situated at **Kammasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore,** has been lost. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Sale Deed. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within **12 days** from this present.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer Ele, O&M Division, GESCOM, Sindhanur
Phone No: 9448998820, E-mail: eesindhanur.gescom@yahoo.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement Mode only)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Limited, O&M division Sindhanur invites tender for Arranging power supply/ electrification of un-electrified Rural Households under BELAKU yojane in Sindhanur & Lingsugur O&M sub divisions GESCOM on partial turnkey basis through Gok e-procurement platform (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Sl. No.	Tender Enquiry No.	Name of Company
1	**No. SND/EEE/AEE(O)/AET/2022-23/ 291 Date: 27.04.2022**	**GESCOM**

The bid documents will be available in http:/eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after **04.05.2022** the prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Electy, O&M Division GESCOM, Sindhanur.
DIP/Raichur/62/MC&A/2022-23

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. SWRTMYPR 202223ST01 Dated: 25.04.2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Procurement of Power operated Dongcheng bolt loosening and tightening machine as per specification, quantity & make mentioned in schedule.	Rs. 5,41,620/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11.00 Hrs. of 25.05.2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer / Track Machines Yesvantpur
PUB/86/AAV/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

(Karnataka Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION, DIVISION, YADGIR-585202

No. EE/RWS&SD/YDG/JJM TENDER/2022-23/144 Date : 28-04-2022

E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2

The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Yadgir here by invites separate Technical & Financial Bid Tender on behalf Hon'ble Governor Karnataka from the eligible civil contractor for works approved **under JAL JEEVAN MISSION-2020-21** details as below.
Work details :1) Gudalgunta (call-2) - Est Cost Rs. 68.00 lakhs - Indent No. 34688, in YADGIR Tq, 2) Sugur - Est Cost Rs. 99.98 lakhs - Indent No. 40255 in SHORAPUR TQ, 2) Eligibility of Contractors : **Class-III and Above,** 3) Date of Commencement of downloading of bidding document Date : **29-04-2022 to 06-05-2022,** 4) Cost of Tender form and EMD : as per e-Procurement, 5) Last Date to Submit bids on e-portal : **Date : 06-05-2022 before 4.30 pm,** 6) Opening of Technical Bid : **Date : 07-05-2022 after 5.00 pm,** 7) Opening of Financial Bid : Date : **09-05-2022 after 11.00 am,** 8) For more information contact Executive Engineer, RDW&S Division Near Railway Station Yadgir. 9) Web Site : http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and should be submitted through e-Procurement system only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S. Divn, Yadgir.
DIP/Yadgiri/42/MC&A/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify General Public that, My Client have intended to purchase property bearing BBMP Katha No.15, PID No.99-22-15, old Site No.28/1, situated at: 9th Main Road, Rajmahal Vilas (RMV) Extension, Aramane Nagara, Sadashivanagara, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 feet 6 Inches AND North to South 78 feet totally measuring 4719 Sq Ft., along with building thereon morefully described in schedule hereunder hereinafter referred **Schedule Property,** from it's owners **Smt.Sindhu Murthy, Sri.Sanjay Murthy and Smt.Sunitha Murthy,** with the financial assistance of Union Bank of India. It is represented by the owners that, the Original Title Deeds pertaining to aforesaid property viz., Possession Certificate dated 17.11.1971 AND Sale Deed dated 18.11.1971; executed by CITB/BDA in favor of Sri.B.G.S Murthy, have been lost / misplaced.
In view of the above, anybody, who have any manner of right, title, charge, interest, claim over the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for sale and creation of charge over the schedule property in favor of the said Bank may file their objections before the undersigned or with the said Union Bank of India, Bangalore within seven days from the date of publication, and if the undersigned or the said Bank, does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner then it shall be presumed that the said Property is free from encumbrances and obligations and Bank may proceed to grant finance.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of bearing BBMP Katha No.15, PID No.99-22-15, old Site No.28/1, situated at: **9th Main Road, Rajmahal Vilas (RMV) Extension, Aramane Nagara, Sadashivanagara, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 60 feet 6 Inches AND North to South 78 feet totally measuring **4719 Sq Ft.,** along with building thereon, and the same is bounded by;
East :Property No.28
West :Property No.29/A
North :Road
South: Property No.27/A

T.S.Ravi Kumar, Advocate
No.29, 3rd Temple Street, Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003
e-mail:ravikumartsrk@gmail.com
Mob:8310539238

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE - U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE

CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, HAL Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017
(Phone: 080 25084162, 4318, 4156) (Fax: 080 25084155)

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BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item-rate tender is invited for the following works:

Sl.No	Description	Details		
1	Name of work	Electrical work of Supply and laying of UPS Input and Output cables from Ground floor to 5th Floor INSAT building at URSC Campus, Bengaluru.	Providing Operation and Maintenance Service Contract for Operation & Maintenance of all Electrical / Air Conditioning installations in Guest House at Devanahalli, Bengaluru-562110.	Providing Operation and Maintenance Service Contract for assisting in Operation of 66kV Substation and Maintenance of all Electrical installations at URSC Main Campus, HAL Airport road, Bengaluru -17
2	E-Tender Notice No.	ETN No. URSC/C&MG/E/TN-02/2022-23 Dtd: 28.04.2022	ETN No. URSC/C&MG/E/TN-03/2022-23 Dtd: 28.04.2022	ETN No. URSC/C&MG/E/TN-04/2022-23 Dtd: 28.04.2022
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 21.69 Lakhs	₹ 32.27 Lakhs	₹ 175.68 Lakhs
4	Tender Document details	E-Tender		
5	Period of completion	Four (04) Months	Twelve (12) Months	Twelve (12) Months
6	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	₹ 43,380.00/-	₹ 64,540.00/-	₹ 3,51,360.00/-
7	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10.30 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 17.05.2022	From 10.30 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 17.05.2022	From 10.30 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 23.05.2022
8	Bid clarification	From 11.00 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 18.05.2022	From 11.00 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 18.05.2022	From 11.00 hrs. on 02.05.2022 to 16.30 hrs. on 24.05.2022
9	Last date of reply to Bid Clarification	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 19.05.2022	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 19.05.2022	Up to 17.00 hrs. on 25.05.2022
10	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 20.05.2022	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 20.05.2022	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 27.05.2022
11	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs on 20.05.2022	After 14.30 hrs on 20.05.2022	After 14.30 hrs. on 27.05.2022

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details in **website:www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-, Group Director, C&MG

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, KALABURAGI

Email:commissionergda@gmail.com
No. KUDA/DB/ /M.S.K.Com/Road/2022-23/285 Date: 28-04-2022

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner KUDA Kalaburagi invites tender from the eligible tenderers, for the work of Construction of CC Road and Walking Track in MSK Mill Commercial GDA Layout, Near Central Bus Stand, Kalaburagi as per standard tender document KW-4. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz: www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) the tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in the instructions to tenders to qualify for the award of the contract and go through the general conditions for eligible tenderers and technical qualification criteria given in the e-portal.

Calender of events :
1) Amount put to tender: **Rs. 4,35,02,830/-,** 2) EMD Amount: Rs.1.00 Lakhs Through e- portal & Rs.3,35,050/- through FDR/B.G/DD, 3) Period of completion : 06 Months (Including Rainy Season), 4) Date and time of pre-bid meeting : **24-05-2022 @ 11.00 am,** 5) Last date and time for queries : **25-05-2022 upto 5.30 pm,** 6) Last date for submission of tender: **30-05-2022 upto 4.00 pm,** 7) Date of opening of Technical Bid: **01-06-2022 @ 11.00 am** 8) Date of opening of Financial Bid : **09-06-2022 @ 11.00 am/** After approval to Technical Bid
Further details can be sought from the Assistant Executive Engineer, KUDA Kalaburagi during the office hours.

Sd/- Commissioner
Urban Development Authority Kalaburagi
DIP/Kalaburagi/96/MC&A/2022-23

प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान
Institute for Plasma Research

Bhat, Gandhinagar – 382 428 Gujarat (India)
भाट, गांधीनगर–३८२ ४२८ गुजरात, (भारत)

TENDER NOTICE NO: IPR/TN/CIVIL-PR/01/2022 (Two Bid System)

निम्नलिखित कार्य के लिए ई – **निविदा** माध्यम से योग्य बोलीकर्ताओं से दो भागों में ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जा रही हैं।
Online tenders are invited in **Two Parts** THROUGH e-tendering mode from and Eligible Bidders for the following work.

1	कार्य का नाम:	आईपीआर कैंपस, प्लाज़्मा अनुसंधान संस्थान, भाट, गांधीनगर-382428, गुजरात में चेन-लिंक फेंसिंग के साथ-साथ ईएमएल प्रायोगिक सेटअप के लिए आरसीसी प्लेटफॉर्म और ट्रांसफार्मर फाउंडेशन के साथ शेड का **निर्माण कार्य**।
	Name of the Work :	**Construction of Shed with RCC Platform and Transformer Foundation for EML Experimental Setup along with Chain-link fencing at Institute for Plasma Research Campus, Bhat, Gandhinagar. (IPR).**

निविदा दस्तावेज विस्तृत निविदा सूचना के साथ https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app पर नि:शुल्क देखने तथा डाउनलोड करने के लिए उपलब्ध है।
Detailed tender notice and Tender Document for the respective work is available on website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for free view and downloading.
इस निविदा सूचना की प्रति देखने के लिए संस्थान की वेबसाइट पर भी उपलब्ध है।
A copy of this tender notice is also available on the Institute's website for viewing only http://www.ipr.res.in/documents/tenders.html

support.civiltenders@ipr.res.in

Karnataka Urban Water Supply & Drainage Board

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through E-Procurement Portal only)
Short Term Tender is invited for the works of **"Providing MS gravity line of 610 mm dia, HDPE pipeline, house service connections, distribution pipeline & DI pipeline from AIT circle (BGS circle) to Ambedkar circle at Hiremagaluru in Chikkamagaluru city" under DC works of Chikkamagaluru CMC.** vide Tender No: KWB/CE(M)/SE/DCE-2/TA-1/AE-1/CKM WS Shift/TND/112/2022-23 Dtd: 29.04.2022, with amount put to tender **Rs.118.50 Lakhs** and period for completion of works as 1.5 months including monsoon. The calendar of events are as follows. Last date of submission is on 07.05.2022 upto 17:30 Hours. Technical bids will be opened on 10.05.2022 after 11:00 Hours. Further details may be obtained through e procurement portal **Ph No:** 0821- 2545894, **Mob:** 9480813140 **Email:** kwbcemys2014@gmail.com **Address:** Jalabhavan, # P-4, 3rd floor, 3rd cross, 10th main, Saraswathipuram, Mysore – 570 009

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
K.U.W.S. & D BOARD, Mysuru.
DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/64/2022-23

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮನಪಾ:ಕಾಅ2.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:03:2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26–04–2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)
2020–21 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯ ಶೇಕಡ 24.10 – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2021–22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 12 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು, 2021 22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಜನರಲ್ ಬೇಸಿಕ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಟ್ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ)– 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2021–22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಜನರಲ್ ಬೇಸಿಕ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಟ್ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2021–22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2021–22 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಜನರಲ್ ಬೇಸಿಕ್ ಗ್ರಾಂಟ್ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 21 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91 8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.
(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 13.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 16.30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 13.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (3) ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 11.00
ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು : (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ & ವೇಳೆ : 07.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 16.30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 07.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 09.05.2022 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/81/ ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23
ಸಹಿ/– ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY
सं. 1551] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, अप्रैल 5, 2022/चैत्र 15, 1944
No. 1551] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022/CHAITRA 15, 1944

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 5th April, 2022

S.O. 1620(E).— In exercise of powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highways Act,1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government, after being satisfied that for the public purpose, the land, the brief description of which is given in the Schedule below, is required for building (widening/two lane with paved shoulder/four laning etc.,), maintenance, management and operation of NH275 in the stretch of land from Km. 99.500 to Km. 223.860 (Mysuru - Madikeri section) in the district of MANDYA in the state of KARNATAKA, hereby declares its intention to acquire such land.

Any person interested in the said land may, within twenty-one days from the date of publication of this notification in this News Paper, object to the use of such land for the aforesaid purpose under subsection(1) of section 3C of the said Act.

Every such objection shall be made to the Competent Authority, namely, **Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authoruty Mysuru with office at No.984, 1st Floor, Geetha Road, Chamarajapuram Mysuru- 570005, (Phone No:0821-2333666)** in writing and shall set out the grounds thereof and the Competent Authority shall give the objector an opportunity of being heard, either in person or by a legal practitioner, and may, after hearing all such objections and after making such further enquiry, if any, as the Competent Authority thinks necessary, by order, either allow or disallow the objections.

Any order made by the Competent Authority under sub-section (2) of section 3C of the said Act shall be final.

The land plans and other details of the land to be acquired under their notification are available and can be inspected by the interested person at the aforesaid office of the Competent Authority.

SCHEDULE

Brief Description of the land to be acquired with or without structures falling witthin the stretch of land from Km. 99.500 to Km. 223.860 (Mysuru-Madikeri section) of NH275 in the district of MANDYA in the state of KARNATAKA.

State: KARNATAKA — District: MANDYA

Sl. No	Survey / Plot Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in Hectare) (Square Meter)
1	2	3	4	6
Taluk: Shrirangapattana				
Village: Avverahalli (Be)				
1	1/1	Private	Dry	466
2	1/2	Private	Dry/Farm	1,475
3	100	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	179
4	102	Private	Dry/Farm	733
5	109/1	Private	Farm	1,560
6	109/2A	Private	Dry	140
7	110/1	Private	Farm	528
8	110/2	Private	Dry	11
9	112	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	1,124
10	113/1B	Private	Dry	285
11	113/2	Private	Dry	229
12	114/1	Private	Dry/Farm	960
13	114/2	Private	Dry/Farm	245
14	129	Private	Dry	268
15	13	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	846
16	137	Private	Dry	1,601
17	14	Private	Dry	348
18	16/1	Private	Dry	1,060
19	16/2	Private	Dry	1,802
20	7	Private	Dry	1,275
21	9	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	1,669
22	94/1	Private	Dry	260
23	95	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	1,700
24	96/1	Private	Dry	207
25	96/2	Private	Dry	143
26	97/2	Private	Dry	179
27	97/5	Private	Dry	1,034
28	98/1	Private	Dry	276
29	98/2A	Private	Dry	248
30	98/3	Private	Dry	1,220
31	NALA	Private	Dry	513
Village: Beechanakuppe				
1	29	Private	Dry	1,537
2	62	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	1,125
3	63/1	Private	Dry	359
4	63/2	Private	Dry	724
5	63/3	Private	Dry	414
6	64/3	Private	Dry	355
7	65/2	Private	Dry	1,579
8	65/3	Private	Dry	561
9	66/1	Private	Dry	673
10	66/2	Private	Dry	1,225
11	67/2	Private	Dry	1,158
12	69	Private	Dry	223
13	72	Private	Dry	186
Village: Belagola				
1	101	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	2,762
2	111	Private	Dry	1,284
3	112	Private	Dry	240
4	113	Private	Wet	142
5	114	Private	Dry	235
6	173	Private	Wet/Farm	1,916
7	176/1	Private	Wet	662
8	176/2	Private	Wet	495
9	184/1	Common (Private/Government)	Wet	1,227
10	184/2	Private	Wet	377
11	185/1	Private	Wet	110
12	185/2	Private	Wet	206
13	185/3	Private	Wet	275
14	186	Private	Wet	616
15	187/3	Private	Wet	860
16	188	Private	Dry	63
17	208/2	Private	Wet	275
18	208/3	Private	Wet	506
19	209	Private	Wet	888
20	210	Private	Dry	531
21	211/1	Private	Wet	296
22	212	Private	Wet	249
23	213	Private	Wet	316
24	465	Private	Dry	73
25	474	Private	Dry	287
26	482/1	Private	Wet	675
27	482/2	Private	Wet	51
28	483/1	Private	Wet	273
29	484	Common (Private/Government)	Wet	671
30	485	Private	Wet	833
31	486/1	Private	Wet	278
32	486/2	Private	Wet	187
33	494	Private	Wet	66
34	505	Private	Dry	88
35	506/2	Private	Wet	88
36	506/3	Private	Wet	1,662
37	507/1	Private	Wet	315
38	508	Private	Wet	664
39	509/2	Private	Wet	292
40	526/4	Private	Wet	611
41	527	Private	Wet	147
42	528	Private	Wet	183
43	529	Private	Wet	773
44	659	Private	Wet	745
45	661/1	Private	Wet	686
46	661/2	Private	Wet	153
47	662/1	Private	Wet	234
48	662/2	Private	Wet	476
49	663/1	Private	Wet	107
50	663/2	Private	Wet	574
51	712/1	Private	Wet	437
52	713/2	Private	Wet	715
53	713/4	Private	Wet	491
54	713/5	Private	Wet	169
55	714/2	Private	Wet	462
56	714/3	Private	Wet	642
57	714/4	Private	Dry	22
58	716/1	Private	Wet	957
59	716/2	Private	Wet	968
60	716/3	Private	Dry	50
61	717/1	Private	Wet	891
62	718/1A	Private	Wet	581
63	718/1B	Private	Dry	371
64	718/2	Private	Wet	130
65	718/3	Private	Wet	179
66	718/4	Private	Wet	798
67	718/5	Private	Wet	113
68	719/1A	Private	Wet	155
69	719/1B	Private	Wet	286
70	97	Private	Wet	497
71	98	Private	Wet	391
72	99	Private	Dry	608
Village: Karimante (Be)				
1	115/2	Private	Wet	550
2	115/4	Private	Wet	330
3	215/1A2	Private	Wet	385
4	215/2	Private	Wet	220
5	215/3	Private	Wet	220
6	215/4	Private	Wet	220
Village: Kempalingapura (Be)				
1	121/1	Private	Dry	275
2	122/1	Private	Wet	1,375
3	122/2	Private	Wet	990
4	123	Private	Dry	83
5	124	Private	Dry	770
6	125	Private	Wet	572
7	126	Private	Wet	110
8	128	Common (Private/Government)	Dry	1,595
9	130/1	Common (Private/Government)	Wet	88
10	130/2	Private	Wet	660
11	131/1	Private	Wet	500
12	131/2	Private	Wet	110
13	55	Private	Wet	682
14	81	Private	Wet	309
15	82	Private	Wet	459
16	83	Private	Wet	482
17	84/1	Private	Wet	770
18	84/2	Private	Wet	440
19	85/1	Private	Wet	110
20	85/2	Private	Wet	770
21	85/3	Private	Dry	198
22	85/4	Private	Wet	385
23	85/5	Private	Wet	198
24	86/2	Private	Wet	55
25	86/3	Private	Wet	275
26	86/4	Private	Wet	220
27	86/5	Private	Wet	77
28	87/1	Private	Wet	330
29	87/2	Private	Wet	385
30	89	Private	Wet	2,524
31	90/3	Private	Dry	55
32	91	Private	Wet	1,567
33	92	Private	Wet	1,184
34	94	Private	Wet	1,386
35	CANAL	Private	Dry	1,908
36	NALA	Private	Dry	394
37	NALA	Private	Dry	335
Total				92,880

[F. No. NHAI/PIU-RMNG/14011/2018-19/NH-275/3A]
RAJESH GUPTA, Director

BMRCL to acquire 9,000 sq.m. of defence land for Iblur station

This will be the first land acquisition for a project that is still in the planning stage

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is acquiring over 9,000 square metre of defence land to facilitate the construction of an integrated metro station at Iblur on the Outer Ring Road. The proposed integrated metro station will link the ORR-Airport metro line and the Sarjapur to Hebbal metro line that was recently announced by the State government.

BMRCL has already initiated the process of acquiring the land that is required for construction of the metro station for future expansion plans. This will be the first land acquisition for a project that is still in the planning stage.

If all goes as planned, the integrated metro station at Iblur will help commuters from ORR reach Central Business Districts areas such as Town Hall, Central College and Cunningham Road among others.

The proposed integrated metro station at Iblur will link the ORR-Airport line and Sarjapur-Hebbal metro line • FILE PHOTO

"As per the ongoing ORR-Airport metro project, the metro station will come on the median of the road. Considering the future plan, the engineering section has recommended acquisition of over two acres of land for integration. We have already started the process with defence authorities on acquiring the land," said a BMRCL official.

In its budget for the year 2022-23, the State Government had announced that BMRCL will take up a new metro line from Sarjapur to Hebbal. The 37-km line will go via Agara, Koramangala, Dairy Circle, Central College and Mehkri Circle. "A tender has already been floated for preparing the detailed project report. As per the plan, there will be an elevated corridor from Agara to Koramangala and the rest of the line will be underground," said an official.

In addition to Iblur, the BMRCL is facilitating construction of an integrated metro station at Kempapura to link ORR - Airport line with phase III of Namma Metro. BMRCL will also construct new metro line from Kempapura to JP Nagar under phase III of Namma Metro. Once constructed the city will have a circular metro line on Outer Ring Road. BMRCL had proposed another line under phase III of Namma Metro Hosahalli station to Kadabagere. The total length both lines will be approximately 42 km.

Integrated Command and Control Centre will be ready by June: BSCL MD

EV charging stations will also be integrated into the system for online access

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) will be ready for operations by June, said P. Rajendra Cholan, managing director of Bengaluru Smart City Ltd. (BSCL).

The ICCC, which is being established at the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's head office, will bring together 14 different department on a single platform. The 6th floor of the annexe building in the head office was officially handed over to the BSCL on March 11.

Mr. Cholan said that the different departments, including BBMP, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB), Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) and others, have signed a memorandum of understanding and shared the application program interface (API). This will enable seamless data sharing which will help integrate all departments, that were earlier working in silos, on a single platform. "We had committed to establishing the ICCC in 100 days. Given the pace at which the work is progressing, we are likely to have the ICCC ready for operations by June," he said. While the capital expenditure is ₹55 crore, the operational expenditure is ₹35 crore. Once set up, the ICCC will be maintained by BSCL for three years, following which it will be handed over to the BBMP, he added.

One unique feature of the ICCC is that the project monitoring system and grievance redressal mechanism is built into the system. "So far, there was no single platform available for this. Inter-departmental coordination will become seamless," he added. Mr. Cholan said that EV charging stations would also be integrated into the ICCC system. This would allow citizens to find charging stations, book a slot, make payments online. "The system can be expanded to include charging stations that will come up in future as well," he said. When ICCC was first proposed, BSCL had stated that it would be a one-stop-shop from where aggregated city-level information could be converted to actionable intelligence. Some of the features of ICCC include incident management, seamless integration of IoT based smart elements and sensors, integrated user specific and customised dashboards, a GIS platform that allows real-time tracking, artificial intelligence in managing traffic and reducing violations, business intelligence in data analysis and decision making, apart from giving access to citizens to real-time governance.

People protest against rising attacks on minorities

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

More than 300 people gathered at Freedom Park on Saturday to protest the increased atrocities against Dalits and attacks on minority communities. "Karnataka is seeing a grave constitutional crisis today. There are open calls for violence, calls for inhuman economic boycotts, and violent attacks on Muslim street vendors in the presence of police," said Bahutva Karnataka, a forum for justice, harmony and solidarity, which had called for the protest.

Members and supporters of Bhutva Karnataka staging a protest against 'the oppression faced by minorities', in Bengaluru on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It stated that it had submitted memorandums to the Director general of police and to the Secretary, Social Welfare Department, against the rising atrocities in the last few months but no action has been taken.

"We want harmony and co-existence. That can happen only when constitutional promises of Justice, Liberty, Fraternity, Equality and Dignity of the individual are harmony and peace. However to achieve that we need to have justice, equality, fraternity and dignity of the individual – our basic rights protected. The gathering resolved to fight for these rights," stated the release.

At the protest, historian Ramachandra Guha addressed the climate of fear, while condemning the attacks on constitutional values.

Citing the hijab ban, Laksmi from the Karnataka Domestic Workers' Union spoke of how women bore the brunt of the targeted attacks on religion.

Writer Hulikunte Murthy spoke of how today the State is trying to control what people eat, wear, and speak.

Participants also resolved to meet their MLAs and MPs with demands that they follow the constitution, not indulge in hate speech, ensure that Dalits and minorities are not attacked and that communal harmony be preserved.

Property tax rebate period extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike will now extend the 5% rebate till the end of May to citizens who pay the property tax in full. A notification to this effect was issued by the Urban Development Department on Saturday. During the first month of every fiscal, the BBMP extends a 5% rebate on property tax to those who pay in full. Last year too, the rebate period was extended till May.

Woman arrested for killing husband to reunite with lover

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Yeshwanthpur police arrested a 27-year-old woman for allegedly murdering her husband so that she could be with her lover. The accused, Dilli Rani, and her husband, Shankar Reddy - an accountant with a private firm - hail from Andhra Pradesh, lived in Yeshwanthpur with their seven-year-old son.

Dilli Rani

On Thursday, their son, who had woken up in the middle of the night, saw his parents lying in a pool of blood and ran to their landlord's house nearby for help. The police were called in and the couple were taken to a private hospital where doctors declared Reddy as brought dead. Dilli Rani had sustained cuts on her hand. After she was treated, she told the police that an unidentified man entered the house and attacked them with a knife. She claimed that he took her gold chain before escaping.

According to the police, there was something amiss with her statement. On further investigation, Inspector K. Suresh found that the gold chain was intact. "Upon analysing the crime scene, we saw that there was forced entry. The injuries she had sustained were self-inflicted to make it look like murder for gain," said a police officer.

The police further verified her mobile phone to find that Rani was having an extra marital affair. When they confronted her with the evidence, she allegedly confessed to murdering her husband. The police recovered the knife she used, and are on the lookout for her lover to question him.

Three held for stabbing rowdy to death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The KP Agrahara police have arrested three persons for allegedly stabbing a 28-year-old rowdy-sheeter to death over a trivial row at an under-construction house on Friday night.

On Friday, Santosh called the accused asking them to withdraw the case filed against him, but they refused. When they met, they got into an argument where Santosh reportedly threatened them. In retaliation, the three men overpowered Santosh, snatched his knife and stabbed him before fleeing the scene. Further investigating is on.

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw criticises immigration process at airport

She terms the process a nightmare

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, executive chairperson and founder of Biocon, criticised the immigration process at Kempegowda International Airport, calling it a nightmare. In her tweet, Ms. Shaw said that immigration process needs to be smart and digital.

Face recognition technology and biometrics should be used to make entry and exist efficient.

"Presently, immigration is a nightmare at Bengaluru Airport and is ruining our city's previous reputation of being most efficient," she said in her message on Twitter. She has also tagged Hari Marar, Managing Director at Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) in her message.

Her tweet garnered support from people who had similar experiences to share.

Echoing her view, one person said, "This is the need of the hour especially with our ambitious plan on expanding international operations. The experience after a long haul makes us think of settling in a tier 2 city, where the exit and entry is seamless."

A few days ago, many passengers had also posted photos of long queues at immigration and worried that it could be a source for spreading COVID-19.

Many people who had bad experiences in the past too endorsed the need to make the process hassle free.

They said that in addition to digitising the entire process, the authorities should provide proper training to staff and sensitize them.

Similar bad experiences

Some also posted about bad experiences they had undergone during their travels.

"I once got through immigration at Bengaluru Airport to go to the UK, the immigration officer (who was being slightly creepy) texted me privately on my Indian number as soon as I reached London. What about data privacy?" questioned a woman passenger.

Giridhara Upadhyaya, a spokesperson for the BJP, said, "Yes we have to introduce new technology but in what way Bengaluru's reputation is ruined, I do not understand (unless you are making a veiled political statement). There are many big airports in the world where you need to stand for hours for immigration clearance during peak hours."

With effect from March 21, scheduled international operations started commencing and flights services on several international routes are gradually increasing.

BBMP chief inspects ongoing works

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Late on Friday night, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta inspected several ongoing works in different parts of West and East zones in the city.

Accompanied by senior officials, the civic chief inspected various works on Sheshadri Road which is being white topped, Avenue Road that is being developed by the Bengaluru Smart City Ltd. as per TenderSURE norms, BVK Iyengar Road, Sultanpete, Chikpete, Kempegowda Road and others.

MUSIC • DANCE • DRAMA

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira, BSK II Stage, Bangalore– 560 070 Annual Awards of Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira Will Be Presented on 8-05-2022 at 4.30 P.M. at Bangalore Gayana Samaja Auditorium Sangeetha Vedantha Dhureena and Raga Laya Prabha Award presentation. Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh will be conferred with the title "Sangeetha Vedantha Dhureena" instituted in the name of Founder G. Vedantha Iyengar with a cash award of Rs. 1.00 lakh. Silver Medal and a citation. The award will be presented by His Holiness Sri Sri Jeeyar of Yathiraj Mutt, Mellkote. Vivek Sadashivam- Vocal, Spoorthi Rao– Vocal, Rahul Vellal- Vocal, Aishwarya Manikamike– Venna, Vishnu Venkatram– violin- Anoor Vinod Sham– Mridanga, Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna– Morsing, Somashekar Jois– Konnakkol will be conferred with the "Raga Laya Prabha" Award. The award carries a purse of Rs.25,000/- in memory of Vid. G.V. Ranganakamma, Vid. G.V. Neela and Dr. G.V. Vijayalakshmi, Founders SRLK Mandira, Pallavi Sammelu Award– Aditi B. Prahalad– Rs.25,000/- cash award. Lakshmipriya Ranganajan– Rs. 15,000/- cash award and Judges special appreciation prize Aishwarya Manikamike and Dhanush Anantharaman. The Awards will be presented by Vid. Sri Kumaresh. The award function will be followed by music concert by Vid. Bhargavi Venkatram. G.V. Krishna Prasad Hon. Secretary Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira M: 77609-07939

SRI RAMA Lalitha Kala Mandira, BSK II Stage, Bangalore– 560 070, Annual Spring Music Festival From 3-5-2022 to 15-5-2022 at Bangalore Gayana Samaja Auditorium daily at 5.30 P.M. 03-05-2022 Bombay Jayashri Ramnath- H.N. Bhaskar- Patri Satishkumar- Giridhar Udupa 04-05-2022 Sanjay Subrahmanyan- S. Varadarajan- Neyveli B. Venkatesh- B. Rajashekar 05-05-2022 Ramakrishnan Murthy- Charulatha Ramanujam- Arjun Kumar- Chandrashekara Sharma 06-05-2022 Sreeranjani Santhanagopalan, H.M.Smitha, K.U., Jayachandra Rao, G.S.Ramanujan 07-05-2022 Shashank Subramanyam- Mysore N.Karthik- Parupalli Phalgun 08-05-2022 Bhargavi Venkataram, Vishnu Venkataram, Anoor Vinod Shyam, Bhagyalakshmi M. Krishna 09-05-2022 Kunnukudi Balamurali Krishna, B. Vittala Rangan, Arjun Kumar, G.S. Ramanujan 10-05-2022 Gayathri Venkataraghavan, Mysore V. Srikanth, Tumkur B. Ravishankar, G. Guruprasanna 11-05-2022- M.S.Sheela, H.M. Smitha, Anoor Ananthakrishna Sharma, S.N. Narayanamurthy 12-05-2022 Aishwarya Vidya Raghunath, Charulatha Ramanujam, B.S. Prashanth, B.J. Kiran Kumar, 13-05-2022 Abhishek Raghuram - Mysore N. Karthik, N.C. Bharadwaj, Krishna Sriram, 14-05-2022- Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh, K.U.Jayachandra Rao, Giridhar Udupa, Pramath Kiran, 15-05-2022 Mysore M. Nagaraj & Mysore M. Manjunath, Bangalore V. Praveen, G. Guruprasanna. All are welcome, G.V. Krishna Prasad. Hon. Secretary, Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira, M: 7760907939.

K.P.M. SUNDHARAM
Retd. Professor of Economics
SRCC, Delhi University
29.01.1925 - 20.04.2022
"... inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me."
Matthew 25:40
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9958545666, 9711560375

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring it to the NOTICE of General Public, that **DIVYA A**, aged about 36 years, w/o. Channakeshna Reddy, R/at No. 247/8, 4th Cross, 5th Main, Maniyopanapalya, Srirampura, Bangalore – 560 021, being the owner of the property bearing Site No. 336, with PID No. 1502000203200589 carved out of Sy. No. 68 of Kasagatapura (Janatha Colony) VILLAGE, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1200, which is more fully described in the schedule below, having purchased from her vendor/N. Manjunath s/o. Narayanaswamy. It is further submitted that originally the property bearing site No. 336 was allotted in favour of original owner/Mekalappa s/o. Chowrappa, vide HAKKU PATRA dated 22/11/1975 from Block Development Officer, Bangalore North Taluk, on the occasion of 28th year of Indian Independence.

It is further submitted the **DIVYA A**, intends to put-up construction over the schedule property by availing Construction/Housing Loan from LIC Housing Finance Ltd Bangalore.

Any person or person/s, Government of Karnataka / Block Development Officer/Tahasildar, Financial Institution/s/Co-operative Society Ltd/ BDA/ Statutory Bodies/etc., having/ asserting any right, title or interest/claims or insists for NOC/etc., in any manner by opposing the disbursement of construction / housing loan, may file their objections to the undersigned within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the Publication of Notice hereof, along with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL of Property bearing **Site No. 336**, Katha No. 316/336, PID No. 1502000203200589 carved out of Sy. No. 68 of **KASAGATAPURA (Janatha Colony) VILLAGE, Hesaraghatta Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore North Taluk**, measuring East to West 30 feet, North to South 40 feet, **in all measuring 1200** & bounded on the: -

East by : Road; West by : Site No. 335; North by : Private Property; South by : Road;

MR. G.N. HARISH, Advocate,
312, Ground Floor, 21st 'A' Cross,
VI Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE - 560 082.

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Tender Notice

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For School Management

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Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL. IBC Division No.1, Kembhavi.
Tq: Shorapur. Dt: Yadgir, Email-ee_ibcdiv1kembhavi@yahoo.com
Phone no.08443/278674

No: KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB/ Tender/2021-22/34 Date: 28-04-2022

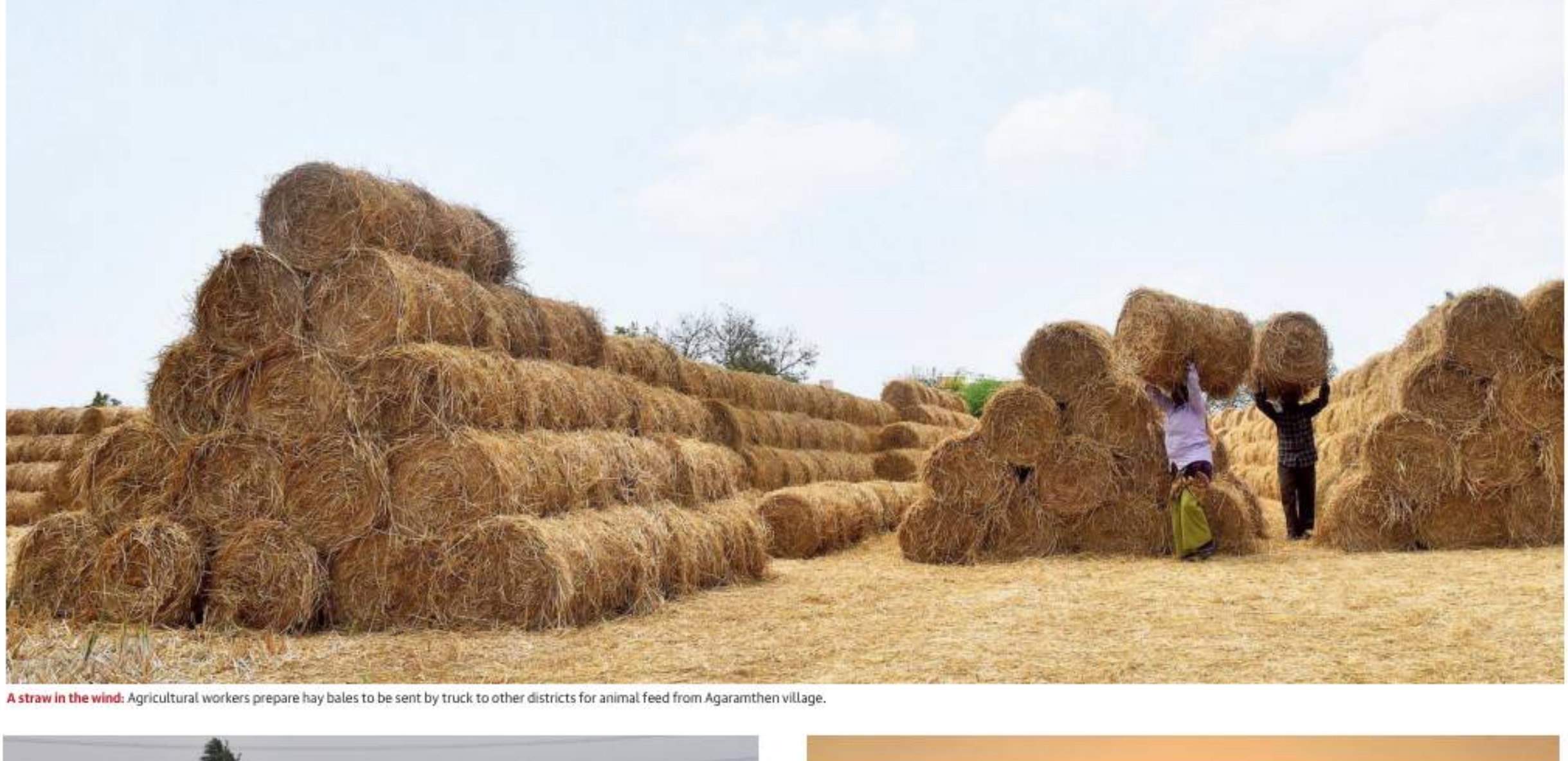
CORRIGENDUM NO-1

Ref: - 1) This office tender notification: KBJNL/IBC/D-1/PB/ /2022-23/01 Dated: 06-04-2022
Due to inevitable technical reasons the modified, schedule of events for e-Tender notification was invited by this office under vide Ref. No (1) above is modified as follows.
Modified schedule of events:-

Sl no.	As per notification dated: 06-04-2022	Changed calendar of events
1	Amount put tender=105.71Lakhs	Amount put tender=99.87Lakhs
2	EMD=1.59Lakhs	EMD=2.00Lakhs
3	The contractor can have access to e-tender document from 19-04-2022 to 28-04-2022 up to 4.30 pm.	The contractor can have access to e-tender document from 10-05-2022 to 21-05-2022 up to 4.30 pm.
4	Submission of completed e-tendering documents from 19-04-2022 to 28-04-2022 up to 4.30 pm.	Submission of completed e-tendering documents from 10-05-2022 to 21-05-2022 up to 4.30 pm.
5	A pre-bid conference will be held on 25-04-2022 at 11.00 AM at the office of the Chief Engineer canal zone 2 Rampur (P.A) Taluka Sindagi of vijaypur Dist.	A pre-bid conference will be held on 16-05-2022 at 11.00 AM at the office of the Chief Engineer canal zone 2 Rampur (P.A) Taluka Sindagi of vijaypur Dist
6	Cover–I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on 30-04-2022 at 11.00 AM.	Cover –I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on 24-05-2022 at 11.00 AM.
7	Cover–II (Financial bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on 04-05-2022 at 11.00 AM.	Cover –II (Financial bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC Division No.1 Kembhavi on 26-05-2022 at 11.00 AM.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL. IBC Division No.1,Kembhavi, Tq: Shorapur
DIP/Yadgiri/39/MC&A/2022-23

For a rainy day: A paddy storage centre at Kattavakkam.



A straw in the wind: Agricultural workers prepare hay bales to be sent by truck to other districts for animal feed from Agaramthen village.

Under the sun: Paddy left to dry at Kattavakkam.

Silken rays: Workers load paddy bags at sunset at at Kattavakkam.

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THE HINDU on Sunday

MAY 1, 2022

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★★★½ TIMES OF INDIA — RAISES THE BAR — FILM COMPANION

★★★★ THE QUINT — THOUGHT PROVOKING — THE INDIAN EXPRESS

★★★½ NDTV — REFRESHING AND REALISTIC — HINDUSTAN TIMES

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 01	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:34
RISE 06:12	SET 19:05
MONDAY, MAY. 02	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 06:53	SET 19:56
TUESDAY, MAY. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 07:37	SET 20:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	25
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	35	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will bevery warm and humid. Night will be comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and uneasy weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. Thunderstorm may occur.

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THE HINDU
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COVID-19: State sees lower fatalities in April

The deaths stood at 6 in April, 97 in March, 901 in February, and 716 in January

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

A health worker collecting a swab sample of a commuter for COVID-19 test, at Kempegowda Bus Stand, in Bengaluru. • FILE PHOTO

While there is an uptick in COVID-19 cases in the past few days in Karnataka, deaths have remained low all through this month. Only six deaths were reported in April.

Four days (April 4, April 5, April 6 and April 8) saw one death each and April 30 saw two deaths. The State has reported no deaths on all other days.

While March saw 97 patients succumbing to the disease, as many as 901 and 716 deaths were reported in February and January, respectively. On February 2, the State had reported 81 deaths, the highest single-day record during the third wave. The official figure of total number of COVID-19 deaths in the State, as per the media bulletin issued by the Health Department, now stands at 40,059.

Hospital admissions

According to data from the department, as of April 29 (Friday), only eleven COVID-19 patients have been hospitalised. Of these, six are private walk-in patients and five are in government hospitals. Of the 11, five have occupied general beds while three are in high dependency units. The remaining three are in ICUs of which only one is on ventilator.

Active cases saw nearly a five-fold rise between January and February. Active cases shot up from 9,386 on January 1 to 1,97,725 on February 1. This number reduced to 4,847 on March 1 and further came down to 1,561 on April 1. As of April 30, active cases stood at 1,785.

N. Manjunath, nodal officer for labs and testing in the State's COVID-19 task force, who is also a member of the State's Clinical Experts' Committee, said Karnataka's decline in deaths is similar to the national trend.

Attributing a combination of factors for this, Dr. Manjunath said, "Third wave saw very few patients develop lung involvement because of which ICU admissions were negligible. Moreover, with a major chunk of the population being vaccinated, disease severity among those who required admissions was low. Besides, the virulence of Omicron that drove the third wave was also very low."

Low virulence

Pointing out that Karnataka is at the threshold of the fourth wave, Dr Manjunath said, "It is too early to conclude if the virulence of the mutations of the virus in the fourth wave will be as low as that in the third wave. It is only a small uptick in cases that Karnataka is seeing now." "Also, most of the cases are either asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic. Now, we should also look at ICU admissions. If ICU admissions do not increase, it justifies that the virulence of the mutated virus is low. But we will have to wait for a few weeks before coming to a conclusion," the doctor explained.

However, the doctor sounded a word of caution for people with serious ailments such as cancer and other comorbidities affecting the heart, kidneys and lungs. Even a trivial infection can trigger complications in such patients, he added.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said that during the third wave patients did not turn up with breathlessness which drastically reduced need for oxygen. "However patients have been developing long COVID-19 issues which need to be addressed separately," he added.

Four held for cheating businessman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Devanahalli police on Saturday arrested four persons including a 20-year-old woman for cheating a businessman and creating fake documents for 10 guntas of land that he had purchased from them.

Based on the complaint, the police arrested Sudhakar Reddy, 37, Ashok Krishna Chouhan, 44, Kumaraswamy, 54, and Priya Kumari, 20.

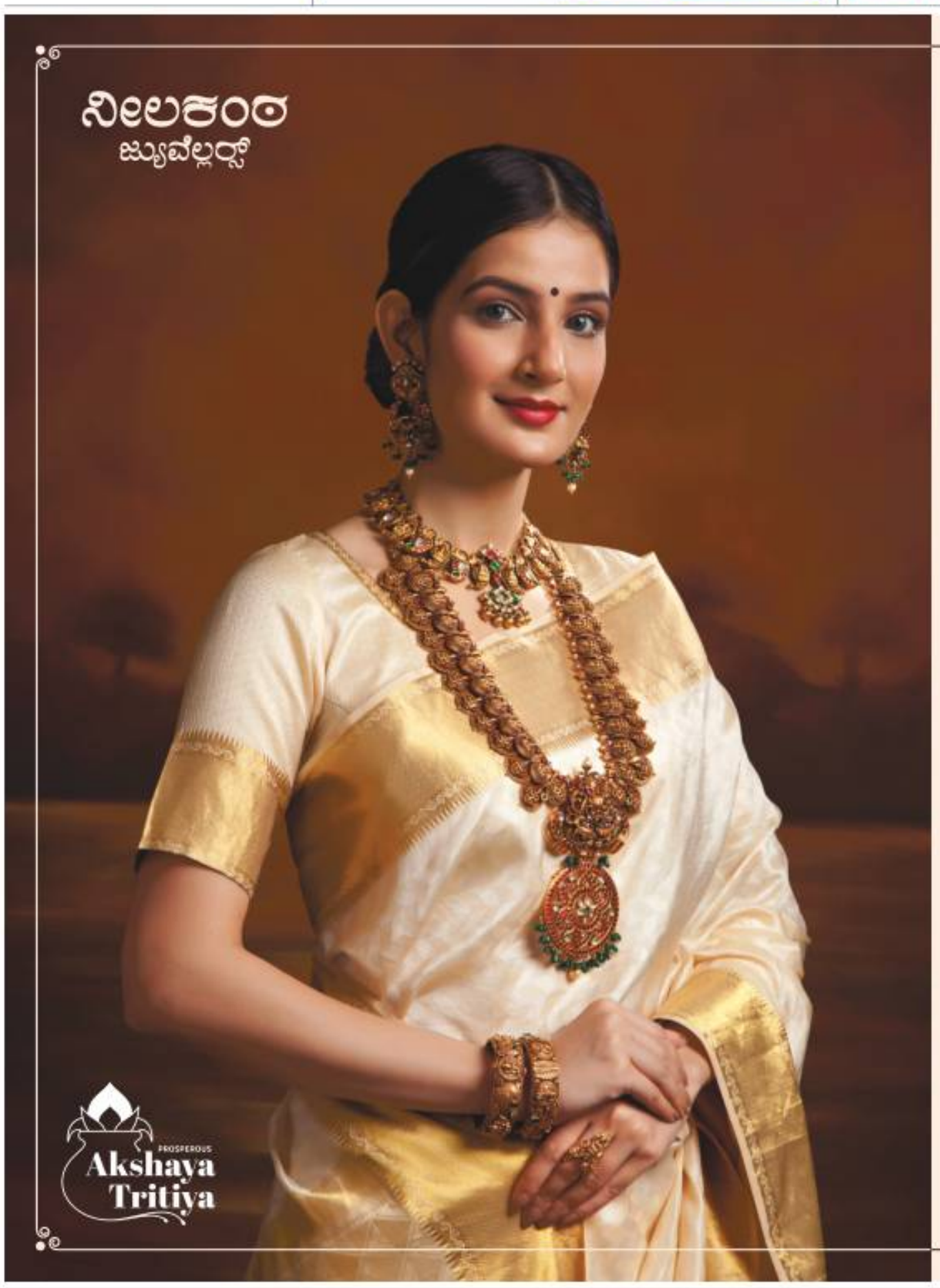
New screening guidelines for arrivals from some countries

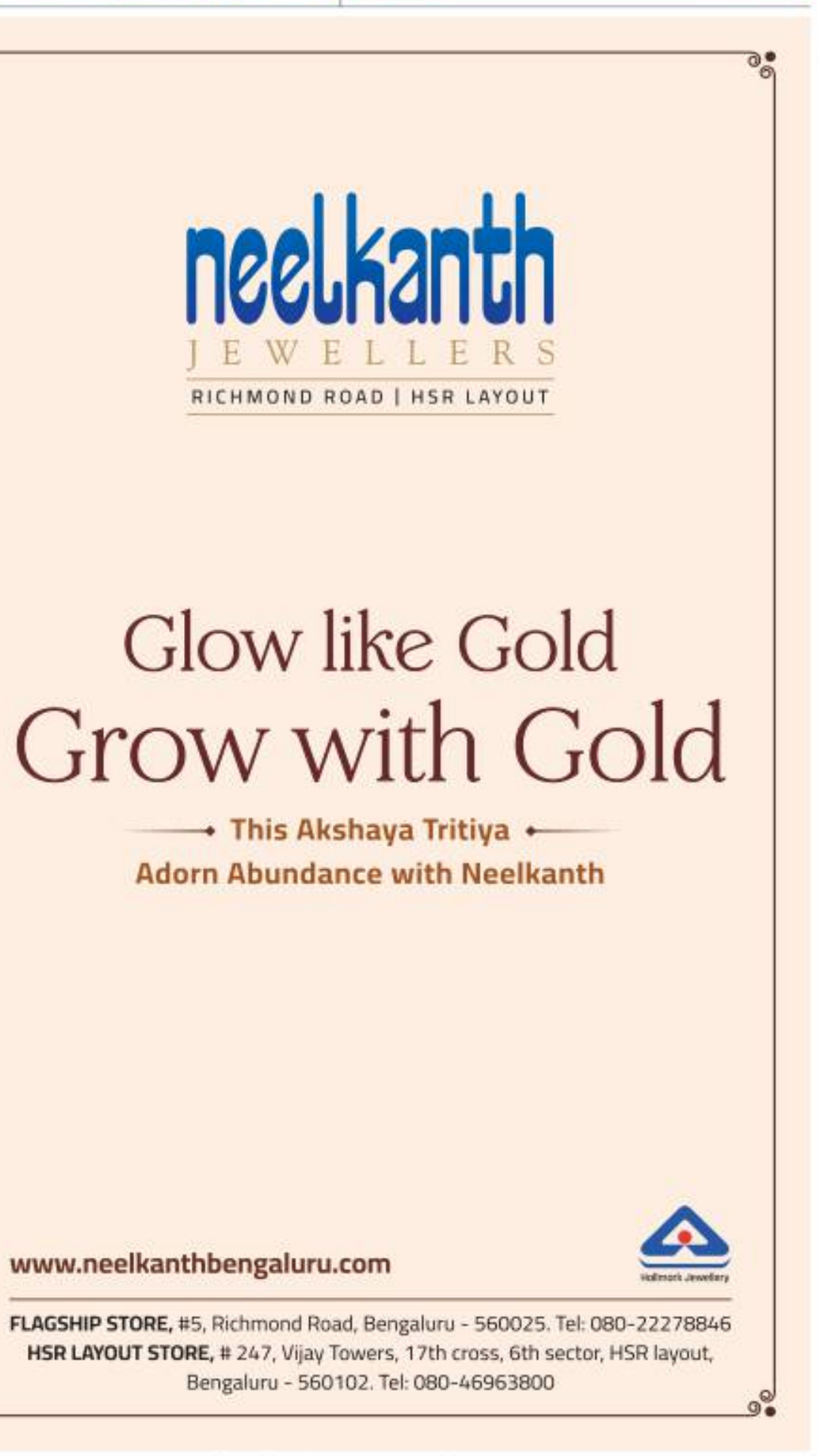
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Following recommendations by the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the State Health Department has issued guidelines for international arrivals from countries that have seen a spurt in COVID-19 cases. Random testing of 2% of passengers arriving from such countries will be taken up.

While cases are on the rise in South Korea, Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, New Zealand, Russia, Australia and China, there are direct flights only from Japan and Thailand to Bengaluru.

"Hence, health officials have been directed to take up tele-monitoring of all travellers arriving from Japan and Thailand at Bengaluru and Mangaluru International Airports. They will be first screened (thermal scanning) at the airports and samples of symptomatic persons will be subjects to RTPCR testing. All positive samples will be genome sequenced and the infected persons will be treated as per existing protocols in the State," stated an official circular issued on Saturday.





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Citizens demand better power infrastructure

There were two fatalities in April; Bescom says several measures have been taken to reduce accidents

CHITRA V. RAMANI
BENGALURU

Residents of Geddalahalli in Sanjaynagar staged a protest on Saturday evening against unauthorised and hanging cables. The protest comes days after 22-year-old Kishore was electrocuted by a hanging cable on April 25 evening.

Vignan Gowda, one of the residents who protested, said that in December last, the residents' association had written to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), drawing the attention of the civic officials to the unauthorised digging and illegal cables being drawn in the locality.

"None of the civic utilities, BBMP or Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) have taken any action in the interest of public safety," the protesting residents charged. They took out a protest march from Geddalahalli to Nagashettyhalli on Sanjaynagar Main Road, demanding that all hanging cables be removed.

Residents of Geddalahalli in Sanjaynagar staging a protest on Saturday against the poor power infrastructure that led to the recent electrocution of a 22-year-old man. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Second fatality

Kishore's death due to electrocution, albeit by a snapped internet cable, is the second electrical accident this month. On April 15, Vasant, a 21-year-old man, was electrocuted after coming in contact with a live wire in Mangammanapalya.

H.M. Manjunath, acting chairman and member of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC), did not mince words and that if the electrical accidents increase, the commission would be forced to issue a notice to Bescom.

The High Court of Karnataka, he said, was also closely monitoring the electrical accidents and was hearing a case pertaining to it. The court has issued directions to all electricity supply companies and KERC to take corrective steps for public safety.

"KERC also issues directions with regard to safety in all its tariff orders. While KERC cannot get into the escoms' administrative domain, the State Government should take action. We have raised the issue with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Minister for Energy V. Sunil Kumar. The Additional Chief Secretary of the Department of Energy should take serious note of this," he said.

Bescom, on its part, claims that several measures have been taken to reduce electrical accidents. One of the major efforts in this regard, Bescom officials said, was the underground cabling and aerial bunching of cables project. The project was approved by the State Government in 2019-20, and the work order for phase 1 and 2 was issued in March 2020. However, the work on ground began only in July-August 2020 due to the outbreak of the pandemic.

Bescom has achieved nearly 70% progress in the ₹ 5,030 crore project, with work under phase 1 and 2 nearly complete. Work on phase 3 and 4 is under progress. "By the end of September, we hope to complete the project," an official said.

He added that all cables are being laid nearly 1.5-meters deep underground using the horizontal directional drilling (HDD) method. This was to ensure that the electrical cables are not damaged by any of the other service providers, such as BBMP, Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board or the various internet and telecom service providers.

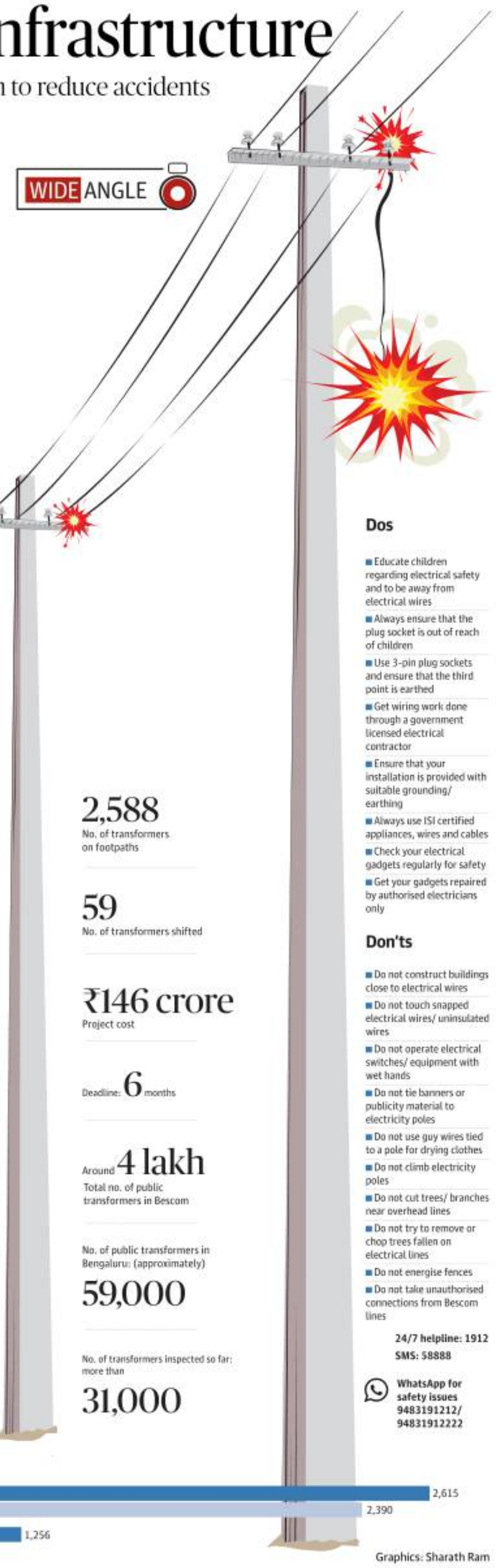
Shifting transformers

The High Court recently took the power utility to task over the delay in shifting the transformers from the footpath. Bescom officials said that of the 2,588 transformers on footpaths, 59 had been so far transferred. Funds amounting to ₹ 146 crore had been set aside to shift the remaining transformers. Though first proposed more than 2 years ago, there has been negligible progress, admit officials. "We have given ourselves 6 months to complete the shifting," officials said.

Following the transformer blast case in Kengeri where two persons were killed, Bescom has been taking up inspection of all 4 lakh transformers under its jurisdiction. Of these, over 59,000 are in Bengaluru.

"We have already inspected 31,000 transformers. These transformers are being checked thoroughly to ascertain if there is any hazard to public safety, if there are oil leakages, wiring issues... basically, the overall health of the transformer is ascertained," said P. Rajendra Cholan, managing director of Bescom, adding that following this exercise, a one-time maintenance of all transformers would be taken up.

Senior Bescom officials claimed that over the past few years, the number of electrical accidents had come down. The power utility conducts safety meetings every Monday for all staff members. Linemen and others are also made to take a safety oath, apart from being entrusted with the responsibility of distributing safety pamphlets to the citizens from time to time. Safety also takes prime importance during the consumer interaction meetings that are held on every third Saturday of a month.



Unplugging electrical hazards: Towards better public safety in Karnataka

RISHU GARG

GUEST COLUMN

Last month, the unfortunate news of a father-daughter duo dying from electrocution due to a transformer blast in Bengaluru put a big question mark on electrical safety in public places. The Thanjavur tragedy has again put the spotlight on the risks of inefficient and inadequate electrical infrastructure.

According to a Karnataka Government site, data from the last three years (FY 18-19 to FY 20-21) show that 58 departmental and 1,077 non-departmental fatal accidents took place at five state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) during this period.

The DISCOMs are usually responsible for the laying of distribution infrastructure that supplies electricity to the end consumers (residential, industrial, commercial, agriculture, and others). Though several public safety measures are in place, electrical accidents do occur, causing injury and/or loss of life and property.

Such accidents mostly occur due to poor operation and maintenance of the distribution infrastructure. Uninsulated overhead electrical lines are a common cause of electrocution. Any contact or close proximity with such lines can allow electricity to be conducted to the earth, causing an electric shock, fire, or explosion. Poor maintenance of electrical assets such as distribution transformers and continuous use of faulty equipment constitute another safety hazard.

Distribution transformer

As per the Central Electricity Authority (Technical Standards for Construction of Electrical Plants and Electric Lines) Regulations, a distribution transformer should be installed either on pole structures (depending on the transformer capacity) or on a plinth. The pole structure/plinth is to meet the ground clearance level (around three metres by two metres) for setting up a transformer.

The transformer areas should be protected with fences, anti-climbing devices, and locked doors to avoid any unauthorised access. The transformers also need frequent check-up/maintenance visits to gauge the correctness of crucial parameters such as oil temperature and leakage, and to identify any loose nuts and bolts etc, which could lead to transformer failures or blasts.

A wire dangerously hanging on a footpath in Bengaluru. •K. MURALI KUMAR

However, such compliance and proactive maintenance visits are mostly overlooked, resulting in an unsafe environment for people.

While the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has brought in certain compensation provisions to give some relief to the victims of electrical mishaps and/or their family members, a lot more needs to be done. To start with, steps should be taken to ensure that such accidents do not occur.

For this, independent third-party audits should be conducted to detect any safety issues. The audits would also help in ensuring strict adherence to the conditions laid out by the Central Electricity Authority for distribution network infrastructure. In case of overhead lines, a minimum height from the ground as per the voltage should be ensured, in accordance with The Indian Electricity Rules, 1956 (Section 77).

Another measure could be underground cabling that can avoid electrocution due to overhead lines. However, while underground cabling is effective, it is more expensive to build and maintain. Thus, DISCOMs will need to perform a thorough cost-benefit analysis for laying underground cables.

The Central Government has also initiated various schemes and reforms to tackle the issues related to poor electrical infrastructure, the most recent being the Centre's Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), which aims to provide reliable power supply to all by improving the operational and financial efficiency of DISCOMs and strengthening the supply infrastructure.

The scheme has a total outlay of ₹3.03 lakh crore, of which Karnataka is expected to receive ₹8,298 crore for its power infrastructure. If used efficiently, this investment can help in considerably improving the state's infrastructure, which can translate into better electrical safety for all.

(The author works in the Energy and Power sector at the Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy a research-based think tank.)

KMC tells doctors in Karnataka not to spread communal disharmony

'Participation of doctors on issues of communal disharmony amounts to professional misconduct'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Medical Council (KMC) has warned all medical practitioners in the State to refrain from any issue pertaining to communal disharmony. In a circular issued on April 26, KMC registrar Shamrao B. Patil said any violation of medical ethics by medical practitioners would be considered as professional misconduct, and such medical practitioners will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

"It is needless to say that the participation of doctors in issues of communal disharmony clearly amounts to professional misconduct for the reason that a doctor is supposed to treat a patient irrespective of his/her caste/religion," stated the circular.

KMC president Kanchi Pralhad V. said, "We came across some doctors who were participating in communal discussions on social media. We also received some oral complaints. This general circular has been issued to warn doctors that even discussing communal issues that can lead to disharmony in the society will be construed as professional misconduct. It is against our medical ethics."

The circular stated, "It is accentuated that doctors are supposed to work in such a way that there should not be even a petite scope for violation of either medical ethics or professional conduct."

"Hence, all medical practitioners working in Karnataka are hereby informed that they should not be part of any issue pertaining to communal disharmony and, in case it is brought to the notice of KMC regarding violation of medical ethics or professional misconduct in this regard, such medical practitioners will be dealt with in accordance with law," the circular states.

The circular has been addressed to directors/principals/deans of all medical colleges and deemed universities in Karnataka who have been asked to circulate the same to all medical practitioners under their purview. It has also been sent to the Director, Health and Family Welfare, Directorate of Medical Education and Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) for circulation to all hospitals.

'State Govt. will bear acid attack victim's treatment cost'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, who visited the acid attack victim in the ICU at St John's Medical College Hospital on Saturday, said that the State Government will bear the treatment cost of the girl. He offered ₹5 lakh through his foundation to the 24-year-old girl and also assured her that he will explore the possibility of rehabilitating her after she recovers.

"I have instructed the BMCRI skin bank to facilitate the necessary skin grafting procedure. The government will also ensure all support in further treatment, rehabilitation and provide assistance in securing her future. I will speak to the CM in this regard and explore the possibility of giving her a government job after she recovers. The government will not spare the culprit," he said. Condemning the acid attack, the Minister said it was an inhuman act, shameful and unbecoming for a civilised society. "The trial for such cases should be run in fast track courts and culprits must be punished quickly. Only then we can send a stern message to such anti-social elements and create a deterrent," he said.

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
(A SPV for the implementation of Smart City Mission in Thiruvananthapuram)

APPLICATIONS INVITED

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the post of **Chief Financial Officer** on contract basis at **Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited.**
For more details regarding guidelines & submission of online application, visit **www.cmdkerala.net**
Printout or hard copy of the applications will not be accepted.

Online Application Submission	**Start Date : 02/05/2022 (10:00 A.M.)**
	Last Date : 16/05/2022 (05:00 P.M.)

N:B: The last date for the applications invited for following posts is **03.05.2022**
- **Assistant Manager (Civil) - 01 No.**
- **Assistant Manager (Transport Planner/Engineer) - 01 No.**

For more details regarding guidelines & submission of online application, visit **www.smartcitytvm.in**

(Sd/-)
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
RO/00988/D3/2022/I&PRD

APPOINTMENT

Advt. No. 59/2022
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
DIRECTOR (POWER)
in
NLC India Limited.
Last date of receipt of applications in PESB is
by **15.00 hours on 28th June, 2022.**
For details login to website
http://www.pesb.gov.in

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

ADVOCATE

ADVOCATE BRIDE aged 27, Seeks an Advocate Groom, Good Character, below 32yrs, working in Chennai. Tamil & Hindu preferred. Bride SOEL Graduate working from home. Brokers and dowry - seekers kindly excuse. Contact : 9384638716/ 7338826905.

DIVORCEE

PROPOSALS INVITED from Parents of Mukkulathor girl, 30years. Tall, Fair, Post Graduate in Medicine. Completed three parts of Royal College Examinations. Divorced within short span due to cultural incompatibility. No issue. Alliance invited from mukkulathor mudaliar / pillai grooms. Preferably Doctors or professionals doing Bussiness from decent cultured. Elite Family. Contact : 73058 36940.

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Girl MD 36/165 Punarpoosam/ Mithunam, seeks groom from same community, preferred Engineer/ SW Engineer/ Doctors 36-40yrs (essential) Chennai/ Chengalpattu/ Vellore regions only. Ct: 8148323860

DOCTOR

Groom Wanted Hindu Sc/Ad 23/160 MBBS Tamil Good Looking Girl from an Affluent Doctors fly seeks MS/MD/IAS Groom.Contact: 9360090559

DOCTOR GROOM working in USA for Affluent Doctor Bride currently working in California. 25 fair slim 165cm, Tamil BC no bar. Whatsapp 9677026459

ELITE ROYAL Mudaliyar 24/ M.B.B.S.,M.D., Own Hospitals (200 Beds) Fair GirlSeeks Groom Chennai 9087604894

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 from affluent elite family of doctors working in top hospital, Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered & cultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair .Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor grooms with MD MS MCh DM from good family background from Kerala & TN preferable. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840385383

KANNADA

SUITABLE GROOM for 31/160 Tulu girl, Software Engineer @ Blore, Subcaste : Shettigar. Preferred 31-36 age, minimum degree qualification, working @ Blore/ Mlore. Caste no bar gshettigar.2022@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

PROPOSALS INVITED from Nair/Nambiar boys for an NRI nair girl ht: 158 cm. Contact (0)9543979205

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA(G.S) girl 39/162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC,Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom(CNB). 9445651626 / 9952995662

ALLIANCES INVITED for Hindu/ Nair girl aged 26 years , Shudhajathakam, working in Germany. Whatsapp: 9901772348/ 9980182559

NAIR/ MENON groom Teetotaller min 167cm Non–IT well settled fair good looking affluent family settled in Chennai/ Metro cities for 27/155 MBA MNC, Chennai Chitra star good looking cultured homely affectionate girl. 9940106790/ unnikuk@yahoo.com

MENON GIRL 27/151cms doing Mds Orthodontics in Chennai requires DOCTORS only.Kindly contact 9566074556.

OPULENT NRI Nair parents having business establishments in Kerala and abroad invite proposals for their beautiful daughter, 30, 168, Aswathy, Papa Jathakam, B.Tech, M.Tech, employed in Melbourne, Australia seeks alliance from professionals of similar family backgrounds. Contact No: 9961294125

EZHAVA GIRL M.Tech, 18.03.93, 11.55 AM, Uthradam, IT employed. Employed professionals, from educated upper middle class, preferred 8590361619.

NRI

CHRISTIAN GROOM wanted for a fair, beautiful, talented and affectionate Tamil girl, doctor,165 cms, aged 24, settled in the USA. IT, Banking or Medical professional, studying/working or in the process of moving to the USA preferred. Language and Caste no bar. Please contact mfatimamary@yahoo.com.

SUITABLE MATCH for kamboj girl, slim, fair ,31yrs,5ft 3inch, b.com,mba,c.s inter,b.ed,llb.. NRI required from Usa or canada 6284239085

TAMIL

SC AD CSI 37yrs / 165cm Working as Diplomat in World Bank, Washington DC, USA. Seeks suitable Alliance Caste Religion No Bar. Cont: 98844 39700

AFFLUENT, PROTESTANT Christian, Tamil,30yrs, PG, Spinster Bride SeeksAffluent, Bachelor Groom with PG, well Settled from Protestant/ Pentecostal/End Time Message Family. Contact/WAPP Details: 8610527636

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Bride Fair, 23yrs, MBBS, PG. Suitable Bride Groom Wanted. Contact: 7338812126

GOOD–LOOKING CHRISTIAN girl Divorcee, 29 years, M.E., working as a Data Analyst in Chennai seeks a God fearing groom: 8148549085

CHRISTIAN, 36YRS, M.D., Doctor seeks Doctor Groom. Caste No Bar. Ct: 8754823754/ 7550286805

VERY WELL to do Christian CSI Nadar family looking for their daughter, God fearing, fair, beautiful, M.B.A, a Christian Nadar Bridegroom aged 32 to 35 from well to do family, well educated. Send bio-date to 95000 27027.

CATHOLIC VELLALAR Girl 29/171 MBBS Pursuing PG Chicago, USA seeks professional from USA. Ct: 9150153743

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private). Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

TAMIL RC AD 32/160 Wheatish MBBS TN Govt. Chennai, seeks any caste RC Doctor 33 to 36 yrs. Ct: 9840784555 Email: wmm8482@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, ADVOCATE (SOEL), Age 26, SC, Chennai, Pursuing LLM, Parent seeks God fearing Groom. 9790977186

Hindu Sengunda Mudhaliar (Kaikolar) 25 / Uthiram / 5ft MBA. Seeks SW Engineer, with own house 94435 10915.

✔ **34/154** FAIR MCA Upper midl Clas Hastham Seeks Mudaliar / pillai professionally Qualified Groom 8220757159

SEEKING ALLIANCE for BE, ECE/ 1994/ Chennai employed girl, MNC. Caste no bar. Contact – 98400 26375.

MUDALIAR (CASTE No bar) : 23/165, Very Fair & Beautiful, Under Graduate, Chennai, Father Business, Elite Family – Seeks Groom – Business / Doctor / Eng – 7305810258

HINDU PILLAI, 36/162, B.Tech Officer PSB Moolam 4th Padam–Dhanusu, settled in Coimbatore seeks well qualified groom, Re–Marriage/Divorcee Excuse. CT: 83005 80169.

MUDALIAR DIVORCE 32, 160cm, BE, MS, Good Looking,wellsettled Family Seeks Groom CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

ASST. PROF. Tuluva Vellal Mudaliar Good looking Girl 34 Uthirattathy, Meenam, Ph.D(Physics), Family Seeks Alliance from First and Unmarried Bachelor Bridegroom Aged 34–36 Yrs, Employed, Caste no bar. Contact: After 7 PM, 7550245659

VISWAKARMA GIRL Slim Homely accomplished, foreign University PhD in deep learning, Visakam, 28/170 cms, seeks suitable alliance from tall well settled professionally qualified broadminded family in India or abroad.Caste no bar. Phone: 9243129691

HINDU VISWAKARMA, Aswini,Siddha Doctor, 24/162, working pvt seeks Doctor/Engineergroom.Ct:9944944047

HINDU PILLAIMAR, 27, B.Tech, M.S., 153cm, studying Ph.D (Neuroscience) in Australia seeks Groom from Pillaimar (sub caste no bar) with PG or equal qualification, age upto 31 years, settled/prepare to settle in Australia/ Europe from good family background. Ct. 7339179318/ 9791965595.

HINDU, SC Adi Dravida, Female, Age 29, Working in Accenture, Contact 9444991091

IYER VADAMA Brahmin girl, fair, 36, 5ft 2inch, never married, lives and works in Canada, seeking a well–educated and compatible groom (Canadian citizen / PR), aged 34–40, 5'8"–6', veg, non smoker, physically fit and active, Never Married. Contact: +91–98234 77869

HINDU NADAR Girl 28 yrs 167 cm, wheatish, 64 kg, M.E Assistant Professor in Engg college, Upper middle class. Seeks equally qualified boy in job / business. Ct: 96265 15511

HINDU VANNIAR 1978/160 kiruthigai MCA Asst Manager govt bank seeks well placed groom Ct: 9489042676

ALLIANCE INVITED by Parents of Mukkulathor Girl, 26 years, Tall, Fair, Doctor, shortly joining Post Graduate course preferably from Doctors belonging to Mukkulathor / Mudaliar / Pillai, Decent, cultured and Elite Family. Contact : 97907 22830.

Alliance invited for Tamil/ Muthuraja/ Muthriyar Er Girl 25 Yrs 5ft, Working in MNC, BLR, Belonging to Family Settled in Bangalore, Ct: 09341245725

HINDU TAMIL SC MBBS govt divorcee 30/163 seeks well qualified groom CNB 99421-81799

TAMIL

SOZHIYA Vellalar Pillai Fair mirugasirisham 33Yrs MBBS (MS) Sevvai, Raghu Kethu dosam seeks Fair Good looking MBBS MD MS(Clinical) groom 32-35Yrs Pillai/MudaliarK.V.Gounder in TN, Tamilians only. Ct:6369122723.

MUDALIAR 35/ Puram/ 164/ B.E/ working/ Divorcee/ (with in Month) seeks suitable Profesnly qualified. Caste no bar. 8825875775/ 9986594934. Mail: y.deepika4@gmail.com

HINDU AD, Parents Doctors, looking alliance for there daughter/24yrs/153Cms/BDS/very fair/slim/affluent, seeks preferably Doctor groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9360271137, 9486069769.

TAMIL GIRL veg, age 25, M.Sc working. Seeking professional groom below 28yrs, from cultured, non-superstitious family. Contact father tripravi@gmail.com

HINDU SOZHIYA VELLALAR 38 / 160cm MBBS Divorcee (No Child) Seeks MBBS, BDS, PG, Suitable Groom (No Child) Good Family. Contact : 9677300179, 8015333556.

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/163 MBBS, MD final year,Pulmonology,seeks Doctor/IPS/IAS. Sub cast no bar.Ct: sendhu94@gmail.com 9840125521

HINDU NADAR, 32/153, BE,MBA, Manager SWE/Bangalore 20L/PA Simmam / Pooram SeeksSuitable Groom 9442126376

SC AD 23/M.B.A., MNC, 1 Lakh PM180cm height Fair seeks Groom decentFamily Ct: 7200067015

YADAVA EDUCATED, affluent, Business Family (25/165) Beautiful, BE, MBA,SAP Consultant, Chennai 9840059095

AGE 34, Female. Good Looking, B.tech, TCS, widow needs Groom Caste no bar, Contact: 98846 95374

SAIVA VELLALAR Divorced Girl 32/ 155 Anusham MS/USA working Dallas no Child preferably US & Vegetarian only. CT: 94437-69752.

THULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 31/ 160cm, P.G. Employed in IT Chennai, Krithigai Seeks Groom Ct: 9445505491

TAMIL Yadhava 25/165,Pooradam girl MS Abroad seeks well Edu groom preferably from Europe. Ct: 96000 33921.

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M. S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent and reputed family, seeks settled, groom CNB. 9489935653

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC 37/1984 MA, Pvt Bank,Ashwini, Good looking. Seek Chennai Groom,Caste nobar 9500017884

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA BUSINESS family looking alliance for their daughter B.Tech, MBA age 27 Sr. Business Analyst from well educated, business family same community or from Hindu community. Contact: 9840447199

KARKATHA PILLAI, 24/162, BDS, Good looking Bride seeks Groom with MDS qualification from Pillai/ Vellalar/ Mudaliar community. Sub caste no bar. Please Contact: 76959 54933

33 SC AD Hindu Tamil Chennai, MBA HR working in MNC, Seek suitable groom, ph 8962046707

34 B.COM MBA Raghu in Lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom 9094020665

MUDALIAR 24/162, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS (PG), Father Doctor, Well to do Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

BRAHMIN IYER 28/173 Uthiram LLB Suddha Jadagam Ch seeks well educated Brahmin Groom Ct:Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL, SC AD / Hindu, 29/155, Rohini, Wheatish, upper middle class, M TECH (CSE), B'lore, Project Fellow Own house, Well educated family. WhatsApp: 9620432082

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI Non Veg (Bengaluru), 36/165, Bsc, MBBS, MD. Working as a Senior Resident in Emergency Medicine Multispeciality Hospital @ Mysore seeks MBA(IIM) M.E.M.Tech,MS Preferred, Central Govt Employed or Own Industry or Well Positioned in JOB. Fair and Tall Good Family Background.Ct: 9449037763 / 9600534404

HINDU PILLAI, Asst. Prof, M.E. 30/ 155 Uthiram seeks Er/Dr Groom. Contact: 99523 62830/74182 11136.

MUSLIM GIRL 21/162cm B.Tech(IT) V.Fair Selected in MNC Chennai.Well to do Family in Chennai 9445556810

GROOM WANTED
Mudaliar 25,160 cms fair good looking MBBS doing MS O&G Chennai. seeks Chennai based grooms Doctor / engineer business from well to do family
Contact: 7358777127

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29, 175 cm, handsome, from well to do educated family, working in U.K. seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23–27. Caste or language no bar.Christians can also apply. No brokers. Send bio, photo to indirapriya1968@gmail.com, 8328645024

ALLIANCE INVITED for Smartha Desastha Marathi Brahmin boy 33/5ft 8inch/BE,MS/SW Dev at MNC Blore with Canada PR, moving to Canada in the near future. Qualified and employed girl from any Brahmin comm. sought. Contact 9845830683/ 9480616626

IAS CIVIL servant/inviting alliance from well settled family. 6301434138

NEVER MARRIED Brahmin Doctor Cardiologist 50 yrs 5ft 4inch Hyderabad seeks unmarried Brahmin bride 39-45 yrs 7013810359.

DIVORCEE

SECOND DIVORCEE Seeks educated issueless Tamil life partner. NRI return Engineer age 57 / 178 cm . Cont.8220447993 (No Mediator please).

RC MUDALIAR 42, MBA, 167cm,Good Looking, Divorcee, well Settled Family in Chennai,Caste No Bar. 9176166231

FINANCE / BANKING

ALLIANCE INVITED for handsome Reddy Groom of 28 years, 5'11" working in NABARD(Central Govt) as an officer from well settled Bangalore based family seeks well educated bride from well settled family preferably working in Govt sector. Contact/ WhatsApp 9448314189

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

NAIR BOY 31/168cm, Chithira, Sudhajathakam, BE, Asst. Consultant, MNC Chennai seeks alliance from BE Nair Girls employed in Chennai. No Brokers. 94432 89246.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

WANTED GOOD Looking Educated Bride for 30 year hearing impaired boy. B.Tech, MNC, Hindu. Ct: 9444075266.

TAMIL

RC CHRISTIAN, 1973/165cm M.A, MBA. Govt. 80k/pm Chennai Divorcee seeks suitable bride CNB 8148842983

R C PARENTS seek Bride for Son 27, Doctor MD (Psy.), Smart, religious. Telugu preferred. Ct: 9487760301

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266098

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, aged 50 yrs divorced Christian.Seeks Graduate Post graduate woman aged betwn 40–45 yrs. Contact:8667387588. No brokers

CHRISTIAN GROOM aged 33, qualification B.E., need homely life partner in Pentecostal or CSI with any degree and own house. Please Contact: 9940542177 / 9840451145

ENGINEER, 53, 180 cms, unmarried, Bangalore seeks graduate lady. Mob 8698966952

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs /178 cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Govt. service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230

HANDSOME VISWAKARMA Revathy/ Well earning BE/31/179 working Microsoft London arrived Chennai one month leave seeking Bride BE/ MS/ Doctor Viswakarma/ Caste nobar 9003215001

ISAI VELLALAR caste No Bar / 31/ 169cm Doctor (MBBS MD DM) working and getting handsome salary. Well settled family. Seeking Educated Girl / Doctor / BE/ MBA/ Professional from decent family contact 97909 38394

HINDU Nadar State Bank of India Deputy Manager 26yrs/180cm Fair Punarpoosam, Seeks Fair, Govt Employed girl, same caste. 9443419510, dpminslakshmi@gmail.com

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar Chennai 30/ 178 BE, Intel, Rs. 1Lpm Bangalore, Caste no Bar. Whatsapp 9840306926

TAMIL SAIVA Muthaliyar 28,M.E(Civil)Govt.Job, 65,000/pm Chennai Based. Ashwini, Mesha Rasi. 8681967025

A WELL settled healthy, hindu age 57 separated, seeks broad minded, elite, independent lady as companion & soulmate No bar Call: 7397087032

PILLAIMAR 30/175, B.Tech, MBA, Thiruvonam, Raaghu Dosam, Good Looking, Manager Pvt Co, Chennai, 9L PA, own house. seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 90435 41625 / 88888 20894.

✔ **TAMIL BOY,**30,170,BE,SWE,SC-CASTE No Bar, Ayilam , well settled family in Bangalore. Seeks Bride below 28yrs from well settled/educated family. Contact 9845401461.

TAMIL

DR.SANKAR NEELAMEGAM M.D(Hom)., M.A(Yoga),Homoeopathy Doctor in Govt Service 37Yrs, 5'7",Sri Karuneegar, Salem Seeks Govt/Pvt Employed Suitable Bride from Karuneegar/Sozhiya Vellalar. Pref. Doctor, Bank,Govt Teacher. CT: 82485 14320 / 8056530152

MUDLIYAR SAIVAM 28/172cm,Astam very fair, BE, SWE, TCS, Chennai,6 to 7L P/A, Rich Family Ct: 95662 77372.

Mudaliar 33, 6 ft DAE/DME Business 7 LPA no mglk, Settled in Hosur seeks Fair Bride Degree Emp/ Unemp Contact: 9894149832.

BE, MS PhD (IITM), Star-Swathi, 29 Yrs, Fair, 174cm, MNC B'lore, seeks B'ful PQB, Pillai/Mudaliar. Contact: 9840161742.

PROJECT ENGINEER @Dubai, 30/178cm Nadar, caste no bar, Prefer Nurse/ teacher/Admin (0)7871705004

HINDU NADAR/NAGERCOIL/BE|ECE in CEG|:MS|CS in UK|/28yrs/6'10"/ Poosam/Good looking/Chennai brought up with native values/Working in London as Network Engineer/ Handsome salary seeks Fair and Good looking MD/MS/MBBS Doctor bride from well educated Hindu Nadar family having origin from the down south Tamilnadu. Ct: 7806997685; pips.ngl@gmail.com

SC AD 29/B.E (EEE) Govt.Job Jr. Telecom Officer (BSNL) 60,000p.m. Seeks Bride Govt. or Pvt. Ph: 7397674481

INTER CASTE (Mudaliar+Naidu) 30/180,B.Tech,MBA,Textile Business, Chennai Only son Elite Family–Seeks bride AnyDegree-9840573419,7358510790

YADAVA TAMIL 31 Years 180cm B.E. M.S (USA) Fair working in Canada, Father Retired GGM from Premier Oil PSU. Seeks Fair, Well educated girl from decent South Indian family. Caste no bar. Contact 6382160720

KONGU VELLALAR good family background 33/177, B.E, MBA good job in Bangalore seeks educated good family Kongu Vellalar Bride. CT: 94421 06837.

HINDU NADAR/ 29/ 174cm/ BE/MS Income 6,00,000/- USA Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380891999

AGE 37, 10th C.Govt job IAF Deaf and Dumb OwnHouse Seeks Hindu bride. Tamil/Telugu. 7299127422, 9841671611

ELITE ROYAL Mudaliyar 30/B.E., OwnEngg. Colleges. B.Ed CollegesPolytechnics ,Industries etc. Rich family Groom.Seeks Rich Bride. 9087604894

TV- MUDALIAR/ Aswini/ 73/ AGM, TCS Chennai/ 1st Marriage only. 9840454440/9453018110 /abalumd@yahoo.com

WORKING AS Design Engineer at Australia , Age 24, ME Mechanical Australia,TamilianSeeks Bride should be any professionally qualified with Ielts General able to work at Australia. age 22 to 24 Tamilian Caste No , Email sekarcp@gmail.com

34, RISHABHA, Rohini, 5'8', Sozhiya Vellalar, caste no bar, suddha jadhagam. 9944232461

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 36yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA. UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste UnMarried/ Divorce/ widow (No Issues)- 9886572314

SEIVA PILLAI Qualification B.E. MBA Working At Bangalore Leading MNC Company Monthly Income 1.5Lakhs. Divorce age 37 Seeks Only 1st Marriage Bride. No Other Caste. Call : 8072215374/ 8946062412

PILLAI GROOM 29/182cm Working in MNC 1L PA with good networth, seeks suitable match. Cont: 97907 31734 or E-mail: elans.estentee@gmail.com

43, TAMIL, VKS, Doctor, Consultant in UK (in govt job) Simham/ Makam. Well settled with British passport and OCI. Seeks VKS, CNB bride. Groom can relocate if reqd. Email -allianz22@outlook.com. Mob: 9840314571

TAMIL

NATTUKKOTTAI CHETTIAR 40 MBA TCS H.R, Rs.15Lakhs PA seeks Bride CNB. Ct: 98846 88588 / 87545 48204.

HINDU SC/AD 29yrs/169cm. Poosam, Kadagam / Wheatish / MBBS / Govt. Doctor only son of Rtd. Cental Govt. officers sks Doctor Bride. 9487142337 94422 25358 whatsapp: 97916 52653.

WANTED BRIDE Employed or Unemployed for Iyer, Haritham Brahacharanam, 59 years, 1963 boy from Brahmin Community. Reply to krishn44@rediffmail.com

NADAR, 1980, HC Advocate, Rich only son, seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. CNB. Ct: 94888 88819

BRAHACHARNAM BHARATHWAJA Mesha Rasi Karthigai 27/180 B.E. 10 L PA Seeks 22 to 24 aged Bride Ct:9789968025

TAMIL HINDU Viswakarma, Un married /45 / 167/ MBA/ Concentrix Manager, 1Lak pm, Seeks alliance from fair girl as Bank Executive/ Corporate Job. Caste no bar. Ct: 9360325183.

FOR COMMERCIAL Pilot(instructor) age–38, Height–5ft 10inch, (B. Com), Late Father (retd)ACP, Own House, Rentals in Hyderabad. The bride should hail from a respectable family, (All upper caste welcome) Ph : 9963670456

MUDALIAR 27/167, Handsome, MBBS, MRCP, Doctor in UK, 44Lac.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

6'T6'2 Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 50-55 Lacs seeks Doctor/Engineer 5 4' Contact: 7032713976.

BRAHMIN,40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, 9487851429

IYER 34/178 BE MS(USA) NewYork Visa–I140. Seek Iyer/Iyengar Girl IT Prfd India/USA. 9445813633/ 8248086063

MOOLAM, 47, DCE, Consultant Engineer, 50K/–pm. Seeks bride Sivachariar, any brahmin ok. Ct: 92832 01223

BRIDE WANTED
My son, Hindu Nadar 29/5'8 Fair, M.Tech. No Drinking & Smoking. Software Engineer working in MNC Canada-Toronto 60L/P.A. Planning to work in Canada for 10yrs. seeks well educated, Good looking Fair Girl from a Hindu Nadar family Preferably working in a Software field.
7397420356

HINDU NADAR 23 BE, MS 164 V.Fair Own industrial Family Seeks industrial Family Abroad and India. 9003074392

HINDU NADAR 24 MBBS 165 Rich Educate family seeks DR, IAS, IPS, Rich family 9003074392 / 9884188849

CHENNAI BASED Telugu Chettiar 33/ 170cms, Hastham, MS., non-IT, lives in Germany seeks slim software Professional willing to work in Germany CNB. Ct: 9360104579

Tamil Brahmin boy 85/5'10" B.Tech., PG in Data Science wrkg Delhi seeks Brahmin Girl. W.App.9643246504

TELUGU

KAMMAVAR NAIDU US Citizen 47yrs 62 Chitra Thulam MBA CPA Divorcee No issues Well Settled in NC, USA Visiting India this month Seeks Good looking Educated bride with Strong Family Values WhatsApp 9842691075

BALIJA 27 / 180Cms Magam,Simha Raasi / BE/M.S (GER) Working in Germany 42L PA, Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride – Sub sects No Bar Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

TELUGU

AGE 42, MCA, MBA,Sadhayam,Kumba Rasi,Fair Software engineer Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste no bar. 7904010930

KAMMA 47/175,MCA,SR.PRJT Mng.IBM, Ch,21L P/a,Unmarried yg look.Seak FC,BC Edu,1st or 2nd Mrg ok. 9025627013

NAIDU BALIJA 1990/180cm/MBA 15L PA working as Sr.Manager Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 8903080519

GAVRA NAIDU 29/179 Maham/ Simmam (Hearing Impaired) M.Com working Chennai 25Kpm, + Rental Income, Only son, Seeks Suitable Bride, Subsect no Bar. Ct: 9791453205 / 9884498435.

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 28, 174 cm Pooram-Simmam B.E. M.S(USA) working in Los Angeles USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT.9442026967

KSHATRIYA RAJU 41/170cm Sr.Mgr seeks bride same caste or Naidu from Chennai ct: 9283745012/ 9283639941.

RICH BALIJA Naidu 31/M.B.A., FamousTextiles Silk showrooms (T. Nagar) OwnColleges 1000 Crores Family seeks anyTelugu Rich Bride. 9087604894

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 46 (Unmarried), Chennai, seeks suitable bride. Ph: 9283727500, 9941372511.

BRAHMIN 28 5ft 9inch SBI Asst Mgr 70K Pm Minor Pblm In Right Hand Call: 9246268415

BRIDE WANTED
Alliance invited for a Kamma boy, 34, 6ft, very fair and handsome, engaged in family business, hailing from well reputed and respectable family. Girl should be from Kamma community, educated and good looking from respectable family. Kindly reply by mail with complete details.
allianceinvited2022@gmail.com

CHENNAI BASED Telugu Chettiar 33/ 170cms, Hastham, Ms., Non-IT, lives in Germany seeks slim software professional willing to work in Germany CNB. Ct: 9360104579

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Coimbatore parents invite alliance for Son B.E.M.S(USA) 29yrs/176cms/70kgs Software Engineer employed on H1B Visa. Seeking Sheik/Syed B.E bride from well educated family. Mobile:9443566155 abdulbashashajahan@yahoo.co.in

SMU Divorcee, 47 yrs, superintendent in Saudi Mech-Engg, Namazi, well mannered, clean habit, understanding & caring person. Seeks Pious Educated & soulmate. CT: 73396-80768.

SENIOR EXECUTIVE/MNC Chennai Divorcee 39/5.6 with one male child 7y seek bride up to 30 years. 9962398590

SMU 28/5'6" M.E. Ph.D (Mech Engg) Faculty in Anna University, Chennai seeks religious and well qualified bride BDS/MDS/MBBS/PhD/ME. (Urdu/Tamil) M: 94441 07569

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THE HINDU
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KAMMA NAIDU, 26, 178 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable doctor match. Contact: 6366448345

REDDY, 30, 180 cms, Businessman, BBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is retired and Mother is an Entrepreneur. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from any community. Contact: 6366448346

TAMIL REDDY/CASTE NO BAR, 30, 170 cms, Lawyer, BA BL. Lives in Chennai. Father is an Additional Government Pleader and Mother is a School Principal. Family is affluent. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448343

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BRAHMIN, 30, 152 cms, Professional, Graduation from an Ivy League Institute. Lives in New Haven. Parents are working Professionals. Looking for an amiable match from the same community from India/USA. Contact: 6366448346

SOZHIYA VELLALAR, 23, 160 cms, IT Professional, MS. Lives in Boston. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match in the USA. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 30, 163 cms, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match from the same community. Contact: 6366448346

MUDALIYAR, 35, 150 cms, Divorced, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match in India/Abroad. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL YADAV, B.Sc, First Marriage Age–52, Good Occupation 1Lac P/m. Caste No Bar. To Call : 80727 17014

MUDALIAR : 27 / Handsome, MBBS, MS Doing, MMC, Having 2 Own Hospital, Chennai, Affluent Family, Seeks Bride – Doctor / Eng – 8925019776

59, CLEAN habits, Fair, Well settled. Seeks Suitable Widow/Divorcee. Caste no bar. Ct: 74014 89892.

TAMIL

HINDU, NADAR, 29/183, MS(Engg.), Sydney, rich, good salary, seeks beautiful career oriented bride. Please contact 9995449823.

HINDU VELLALA Pillai, Thiruvonam, 28yrs/177cm, M.E., Handsome, BOB-Nationalised Bank Officer seeks suitable Bride Central/ State/ Govt. Staff Govt.Schools/ Colleges. Sub Caste No Bar. Ct: 63747 41850/ 97151 91579.

OBC Bride for Mudaliar Groom 32 years, BE .MBA 178cm Govt 75K, Employed or settled. Ct :94449 25350

AGAMUDAYAR 31/175 Mirugasirisham B.E, EEE, Associate Project Engr, Working in Pvt Co. Seeks Fair, Good Looking, Well Educated, Good Family Same Caste Ct:8778446246/ 6369759991

TAMIL

ELITE FAMILY, Hindu 30, SC, AD, BE MBA Homely & Divorced, Seeking Groom from Similar background Employed & below 35 yrs. 7303518877

39YRS IYER Girl Divorcee No Kids BE MS USA CITIZEN Employed in BayArea California Seeks Suitable Groom in USA Vegetarian Caste No Bar Ct:+91 9445342602 / swathi.2652@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED
MUDHALIAR 29 /164 cms / M.B.B.S / Rs. 40000/-pm, Kanni-Uthiram (2), Father Doctor / seeks groom preferably Doctor / Engineer/Gazetted Officer /Charted Accountant from Mudhaliar Community.
Contact No: 97890 73407

HINDU SC PR KONGU 37, MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom.Ct: 94436-80973

TAMIL

S'BLE MATCH for May 93 born Tamil Iyer vadama B'lure based CA inter passed girl Koushika Gothram from well qualified affluent non Koushika Tamil vadama Iyers family only. Horoscope matching must. 9645058602.

HINDU SC AD 34yrs, BE, Masham/ Barani SWE/TCS, 12 Lakhs PA. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9952147216

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA, Kotai-2 Viruchikam, 27/160cm, MBBS Govt Dr. 80k pm seek prof. groom 9884244151

TELUGU

KAMMA NAIDU 25/163 Uthiradam MS CS USA, SW Professional 1.74Pa, seeks groom MS in US/ well settled business family in Tamilnadu 7299346525

NAIDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 45/151 ACS MBAEmplyd TN.PSU, looking for Bridegroomin Chennai.CNB : 9445366062

NAIDU : 28.V.Fair & Beautiful, MBA, Export & Import Business, Chennai. Elite Family – Seeks Groom Business / Job – 8939012419

TELUGU

RICH (KAMMA Naidu) 26/M.Sc., OwnEngg Colleges, Textile Mills(Coimbatore) Fair seeks Groom7200067015

GAVARA 33/156, B.E,SWE,1L/P/M, Poorattathi, Kumbam, seeks suitable T.N Groom working in CHE/BLR, Good Family, any Naidu OK. Ct:9445683332

URDU

SUNNI MUSLIM Urudu speaking 25/168 B.Arch Working,Fair,Good looking, Affluent Pattan (khan) Parents from Tamilnadu settled in Bangalore Seek High Educated Well Settled Groom. Preferably from Chennai & Bangalore.Contact 9448495448

SMU SEEKS Alliance for girl M.Tech 24/172 wheatish work-Pharma MFG Co.,Chennai.9092461531/9841021747

SMU GIRL 28/167 Doctor MD 2nd year Seeks Suitable Doctor groom from good family. Ct: 9585547701

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Amendment to Flag Code upsets khadi activists

They write to PM, Home Minister

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
BELAGAVI/HUBBALLI

Every time the tricolour fluttered over the Red Fort in New Delhi, the people of North Karnataka had a reason to feel proud, as the hand spun, hand woven khadi flag was made in the country's sole BIS-approved flag manufacturing unit in Hubballi.

However, the Union Government's recent move to amend the National Flag Code, allowing polyester and imported cloth, has come as a shocker to many. Khadi activists are up in arms against the Centre for making an amendment that they consider a "sacrilege". They contend that the move will only dilute the definition of khadi but also undermine the spirit of freedom struggle.

Flags being sewed at Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangh in Hubballi. • FILE PHOTO

As per rule 1. 2 of part 1 of the Flag code of India 2002, only khadi or hand-spun cloth was the material for the flag. Use of other material was punishable. But the recent amendment has changed it to "The National Flag shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton, polyester, wool, silk khadi bunting."

That means machine made polyester made in India or imported from elsewhere can now be used for the flag.

Taking strong exception to the move, the Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha (KKGSS) at Bengeri in Hubballi, which runs the lone BIS-approved flag making unit it has already written to Prime Minister and Home Minister of India. "We have also urged Union Minister Pralhad Joshi to take up the issue with the Centre. It is not just the flag that will be affected but the whole of khadi sector. The basic tenet of khadi has been attacked," says Shivanand Mathapathi, secretary of KKGSS.

"This will be the last nail in the coffin of handmade products and household industries," says Gandhian and khadi activist Dilip Kamat. His father Srirangdhar Kamat was a freedom fighter and was jailed. "There is a reason why khaddar cloth was mandated for national flag. While national flag is a symbol of our freedom and sovereignty, the khaddar signifies the spirit of the freedom struggle. It was meant to convey the meaning that we had won the fight against the mighty British Empire using the humble charkha as the weapon," he said, adding that this symbolism needs to be preserved.

Question of livelihood

"The amendment will snatch livelihoods of thousands of poor rural women who are engaged in various stages of khadi cloth production, dying, and stitching the flags," said Subhash Kulkarni, president of the District Khadi Sangha.

Prasanna, theatre person and activist promoting Khadi and handmade products, said it is shameful that we are trying to allow machine made polyester and imported cloth in the national flag... The government's decision amounts to trampling over the sacredness of the national flag and thereby the spirit of India."

"The Union Government is trying to subvert the Constitution," argued Sarala Satpute, activist working for the welfare of the weaver community. "Among our fundamental duties listed in the Constitution is 'To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom'. Khadi reflects these ideals," she said.

There are other intricate details about the making of the flag in the Flag Code. They include the rule that there should be exactly 150 threads per square centimetre, four threads per stitch, and one square foot should weigh exactly 205 gm.

The code has been amended earlier too. The original flag code of India 1947 was amended in 2002 after a Supreme Court judgment. This expanded the definition of places where the flag could be displayed or hoisted. However, part one of the code that deals with description of the flag was untouched.

Campaign against imported polyester flags

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

A few days ago, Laila Tyabji, co-founder of Dastakar, an NGO that promotes hand woven cloth, made an appeal on social media to save the Flag Code. This created a flurry of responses from various activists. They have been posting messages with hashtags like #SaveIndianNationalFlag.

The Gram Seva Sangh (GSS) condemned the move in a tweet that tagged the Prime Minister's Office. "We resist Govt. of India's moves to insult Khadi, the very symbol of our freedom struggle. Why should we celebrate 75 years of Independence with imported polyester flags putting aside #KHADIflags? #SaveIndianNationalFlag. Retract amendment to the Flag Code immediately," said the tweet. Social activist Kavita Kuruganti also tweeted protesting the move, urging that imported polyester cannot allowed to be used as flag, tagging PMO, J.P. Nadda, BJP president, apart from Rahul Gandhi and Mamata Banerjee.

'Change for the better'

However, there are a few who believe that the change may be for the better. "Young people today prefer the smooth polyester cloth over the rough Khaddar. The changes may help us sell more flags to the young. Also, the change may help attract investment in the field of Khadi and village industries," said Gurulingappa Gombi, chairman of the Khadi Weavers' Co-operative Society in Bagalkot.

'Authority to be constituted to develop judicial infrastructure'

'Posts of judges in HC and lower courts in State will be filled'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said a decision has been taken to constitute an authority comprising the Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, Chief Minister, Law Minister, and other senior officials for developing the judicial infrastructure, including appointment of judges, in the State.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders in New Delhi on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Speaking to reporters in Delhi after attending a joint conference of Chief Minister and Chief Justices of High Courts at Delhi's Vigyan Bhavan, Mr. Bommai said the authority would be empowered to take decisions on the development and supervision of the judicial infrastructure.

It was decided that all sanctioned posts of judges in the High Court and lower courts in the State would be filled. The Chief Justice of the High Court would initiate action to fill vacancies of judges in district courts. It was decided that preparations would be made six months in advance to fill vacancies in lower courts and the High Court, he said.

On Saturday morning, Mr. Bommai called on Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal and urged him to procure ragi produced in the State. The Centre agreed to procure an additional three lakh tonnes of ragi.

Farmers have been demanding procurement of ragi in five-six districts following glut in production. Earlier, two lakh tonnes was procured. The government released ₹485 crore to procure ragi of 1.14 lakh tonnes in the second phase. Now, the Centre has again agreed to procure three lakh tonnes, the Chief Minister said.

In a reply to the question on scrapping the results of the PSI examination conducted October last, Mr. Bommai said he had informed the Home Department to introduce reforms while conducting re-examination in the coming months. Malpractices occurred owing to use of latest technology such as Bluetooth by the accused involved in the scam in towns such as Kalaburagi, he said.

On the Opposition criticism of the government's decision to annul the results, Mr Bommai said an impartial probe was going on. Instead of providing documents related to the scam, the Congress leaders indulged in "hit-and run", he added.

FROM PAGE ONE

New scheme to help owners create their own land sketch

Describing how landowners could go about the process, the Minister said that the first step was to visit rdservices.karnataka.gov.in. Landowners had to provide Aadhaar card and RTC. Only when the information provided matched, they would be allowed to follow the next steps on making self-sketch.

"It is a simplified and secure process. The sketch created by the private landowner has legal validity and once it gets approved by the Survey Department, the owner can use 11 E sketch for registration in sub-registrar office, conversion of land use, podi sketch to get individual RTC. Existing fee structure is applicable for services under Svavalambhi. scheme," the Minister said.

Helpline to be launched

Senior citizens, physically challenged, widows, unmarried or divorced women whose annual family income is lower than ₹32,000 could soon apply for social security pension benefit by dialling a toll-free telephone helpline.

Mr. Ashok said the Chief Minister would launch the helpline shortly. "Applicants can provide their Aadhaar number while registering their request on a toll-free number. Based on the request, the village accountant will visit the applicants on their doorsteps and verify the information provided and collect the related documents. Thereafter, the deputy tahsildar will approve eligible applications within 72 hours," said the Minister.

Mr. Ashok added that in Bengaluru, the State Government was planning to utilise the services of gig economy workers for verification of documents of the applicants. The Minister added that due to continuous monitoring of disbursal of social security pension benefits, the department had identified 3.58 lakh "bogus beneficiaries" that had helped save ₹430 crore for the exchequer.

The State Government had also proposed to amend Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, to permit conversion of agriculture land for non-agriculture use based on self-declaration. As per the proposal, an owner of agricultural land would be able to put his land to non-agricultural use by giving a self-declaration as per approved master plan of the area.

In case the master plan has not yet been published for an area, the authorities will give approval as per the provision of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act. However, if any diversion is obtained using a false and wrong self-declaration, such declarations will be rejected by Deputy Commissioners, and the applicant will face legal action and the amount paid will be forfeited.

It's Cong. policy to stand with accused: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

While political slugfest surrounding the Hubballi violence continues, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said it is the "Congress policy" to support people who have been arrested in connection with violence.

Speaking to reporters at the Karnataka Bhavan in Delhi, Mr. Bommai said in line with the Congress policy, former Minister and MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan extended support to people who have been arrested in the violence. It is alleged that the MLA told his followers to provide food kits and financial aid to the families.

"This is not the first time. In the D.J.-K.G. Halli case too he (Mr. Khan) did the same thing. That is his and the Congress party's stand," Mr. Bommai said. Meanwhile, Mr. Zameer, on Twitter, denied the allegation and said he had nothing to do with distribution of food and he was on a pilgrimage.

On whether he would discuss the issue of banning PFI and SDFI during his meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday, Mr. Bommai said: "The issue will not be discussed. PFI activities are spread across the country and not just Karnataka. The Home Department will take action on such matters, he said.

GOVERNAMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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Office Of The Chief Project Officer, PWD Annexe building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru - 560 001. Website: www.shdpkar.in E-mail: cepiushdp@gmail.com

No.: CPO/SHDP/Tech/EE-/Phase-3/251 b.work/T.Notification/2022-23/230/2 Date: 29.04.2022

Short Term Tender Notification for improvements of State Highways & under SHDP- Phase-3 (Package No: 251 Balance Work)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
No: 01/2022-23 Dated: 29.04.2022

The Chief Engineer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru on behalf of Governor of Karnataka invites tender from eligible class I contractors registered with PWD, Govt. of Karnataka for the works costing less than 15 Crores pertaining to improvements of important selected State highways under SHDP Phase 3 (Package No.: 251 Balance work), as per standard bidding document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The tenderers may submit tenders for the work given in the table through e- procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (**http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**).

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in lakhs)
1	5054 SHDP Improvements (Project) Total No's of Packages: 1	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through e-proc portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through e-proc portal
	Class of contractor: Class I & above	**Duration:** 11 months / (Including monsoon)	

Tender process details: **(1)** Tender documents can be downloaded in E-Proc portal from **29.04.2022 to 16.05.2022** upto **1.00 p.m. (2)** Pre bid meeting on **06.05.2022** at **11.30 a.m.** (o/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). **(3)** Last date & time for receipt of tenders **16.05.2022** Upto **5.30 p.m. (4)** Date & time for opening of technical bid **18.05.2022** at **11.30 a.m. (5)** Tentative Date & time for opening of financial bid **23.05.2022** at **11.30 a.m. (6)** Corrigendums, addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Registered contractors in KPWD, Karnataka and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender. Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Projet Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. and SHDP website www.shdpkar.in. e-procurement portal helpdesk telephone nos. are 080-23010900 & 080-38013000.**

COVID-19, DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE. Wear Mask | 6 Foot Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

DIPR/DDU/AAA/362/2022-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಬೀರಸಂದ್ರ ಗ್ರಾಮ, ಕುಂದಾಣ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ದೇವನಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು-562110
ಇಮೇಲ್:dudc_blr@yahoo.co.in, dudc.blrrural@gmail.com

ಸಂ.ಜಿನಕೋ(ತಾ3)/ವಿವ/137/2016-17 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.04.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-2ನೇ ಕರೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ನಗರ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಸಗಿ ಸಹಭಾಗಿತ್ವದಲ್ಲಿ L.E.D ಇಂಧನ ಕ್ಷಮತೆಯ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳ ಅಳವಡಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು **CCMS** ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ **Concessionaire** ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಲು ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ 'ಇ' ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು 'ಇ' ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ (INDENT NO: DUDC/TECH/CCMS/LEDSLG/CR/65/2021-22/CALL-2) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

Schedule of Bidding Process

Events: 1) Last date and time for receiving queries: **25.05.2022, Time: 4:00 pm. 2)** Venue, Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **09.05.2022, Time: 11:30 am, at Bangalore Rural DC Office. 3)** Last date and time prescribed for submission of Bid(s)(Bid due date): **26.05.2022, Time: 5:00 PM. 4)** Date and time of opening of the technical Bid (s): **28.05.2022, Time: 5:00 PM. 5)** Date and time of opening the Financial Bid (s) of Technically Qualified Bidder (s): **31.05.2022, Time: 5:00 PM. 6)** Validity of Bids: 90 days.

ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ನಗರಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕೋಶ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

DIPR/CP/KAVITA/337/2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Commissioner, Yelahanka Zone, Amruthalli Main Road, Byatarayanapura, Bengaluru-560092.

No: BBMP/YD/EE(P)/TENDER/04/2022-23 Date: 27-04-2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System)

It is hereby brought to the notice of eligible NGO's that it is proposed to Start Night Shelters newly to the Shelterless persons under National Urban Livelihood Drive (Day-Nulm) scheme coming under limits of Yelahanka Zone in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999-2000 for the year 2021-22 and tenders are invited as below by the interested & experienced NGO's for maintenance of the same.

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	Quantity	Tender Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)
1	Regarding Maintenance of Dwelling Centre for Penniless / Night Shelterless Citizen (By NGO's only)	01 Centre	10.05	25,500/-

Name of the Centre: **BMTC Bus Stand Building, Mazanine Floor, East Portion, Yelahanka Old Town, Bengaluru - 560064.** Duration: **12 Months**

1) Last Date for Submission of Tenders: **09-05-2022 upto 4.00 PM. 2)** Date of Opening of Technical Bids: **10-05-2022 at 4.30 PM or next day during office hours. 3)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **12-05-2022 at 4.30 PM.**

Tenders are invited for the above said Programme and e-Procurement information required may be obtained during prescribed time **from 28-04-2022 (https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** For further information please contact **Office of the Welfare Officer, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP, Byatarayanapura, Amruthalli Main Road, Bellary Road, Bengaluru - 560092** during office hours.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner, Yelahanka Zone, Bengaluru.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE. Wear Mask | 6 Foot Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

INDUSVIVA

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

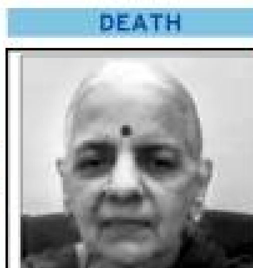
DR. M. SHAMSUDEEN
(14.05.1959 - 01.05.2021)

Your memory is still vividly treasured after one whole year of your demise. The direct selling fraternity misses a luminary who led the way and shaped the lives of many. The manuscript of unwritten history starts and ends with you and its pages are considered as a sacred guidebook for any entrepreneur.

Keeping you in our prayers at every moment.
May your soul reside peacefully in paradise!

- Team IndusViva

DEATH



BANUMATHI. R (BANU)
Shanthi Colony, AnnaNagar
W/O (late) P.Rajagopalan (Ex-Chellapali Sugars)
D/O VR Chari (Kethandapatti)
Attained Acharyan Thiruvadi on 27th April 2022
Missed by All
Contact- Daughters 9663922665 9620412111/ 9884882458

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

4th Year Anniversary

V.R. CHANDRASEKARAN
Retd. AGM, INDIAN BANK
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure
Fondly remembered by
FAMILY and FRIENDS
Mobile : +91 9444982518

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Late C.Murugan M.A, B.Sc, B.Com, L.L.B
Retd. Manager, Punjab National Bank,
Devikripa, Alamkulam, Kunissery PO, Palakkad.

You will forever remain alive in our Hearts and memories dear Father.
Through various challenges you upheld your children & left an undying legacy for us.
We miss you...

Wife: **V.Lakshmi**
Children: **Jayasree Murugan, Prasad Murugan, Dhanraj Murugan**
Son-in-law : **Prasad Kumar M**
Daughter-in-law: **Renitha Devi P R**

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt of Karnataka Enterprise)
Tel/FaxNo-08261-295686 e-mailid-eeubp3.1@gmail.com
Office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL,
UBP Division No. 3, Ajjampura

NO:EE/VJNL/UBP/D-03/Ajjampura/PB-1/Tender notification/2022-23/67 Dated: 28.04.2022

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E- Procurement)

Percentage tender through e-portal for the SCP/TSP works under single cover and two cover systemis invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 03 Ajjampura on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the registered contractors with validKPWD Class- I certificate onlywho fulfills the pre-qualification conditions for 07 SCP and 03 TSP works. The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 02.05.2022 to 21.05.2022 upto 17.30 hours. Details such as Amount put to tender/ EMD amount/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained throughe-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours upto 21.05.2022 (17.30 hours). The tender will be opened on 23.05.2022 at 11.30 hours at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 03 Ajjampura through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the Technical Qualified bidders

Sd/-Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.03, Ajjampura.

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600 rice mills install blending machines for rice fortification

Move comes in the wake of Food Corporation of India agreeing to buy only fortified parboiled rice from Telangana

N. RAHUL
HYDERABAD

As many as 600 of the 900 major rice mills in Telangana have installed blending machines to add micronutrients to parboiled rice milled from paddy bought by them in the rabi season.

The mills started installing the machines since the Food Corporation of India had agreed to buy fortified parboiled rice in the State while rejecting the unfortified variety.

The refusal of the Centre to lift parboiled rice from the State had kicked off a major protest by the State government. As the paddy cultivated in rabi generally yielded broken rice due to higher temperatures during harvest, the State government had been supplying parboiled rice to the FCI all these years. But the FCI refused to buy it from this year as it had surplus stocks at its godowns.

Against this backdrop, the FCI agreed to buy 40.2 lakh tonnes of raw rice and 2.6 lakh tonnes of fortified parboiled rice of the rabi crop from the State, a senior civil supplies officer told *The Hindu*.

Rice fortification is a process of adding micronutrients to regular rice using extrusion technology. Fortified rice kernels are produced from a mixture using an extruder machine. These kernels are then blended with regular rice to produce fortified rice. The micronutrients that are used to blend included iron, folic acid and Vitamins D and B-12. The fortification of rice follows that of salt, oils, milk and wheat, which is in the Centre basket for micronutrient addition by 2024.

Gearing up: A view of a rice mill on the outskirts of Nizamabad town in Telangana. • FILE PHOTO

The official said the Centre proposed the supply of fortified rice in the public distribution system to improve immunity levels of people in the background of the novel coronavirus and other pathogens. After the State government decided to toe the line of Centre, officials suggested to rice millers to install blending machines. The supply of fortified rice made a small beginning from anganwadi centres in the State this month. Soon, it will be included in mid-day meals for schoolchildren and the public distribution system, officials added.

When the Civil Supplies Department wrote to the FCI on April 13 that it would supply raw rice and not parboiled rice, the department communicated that it was prepared to supply as much fortified parboiled rice as possible. Senior officials of the department also rushed to Delhi to convey their preparedness. In response, the Secretary of the Ministry of Food, PDS and Consumer Affairs wrote to the department on Thursday that the FCI would be instructed to lift 2.6 lakh tonnes of fortified parboiled rice from the State. The allotment of paddy to rice mills was also enhanced.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely at some/isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.2	23.4	Kozhikode	20	33.9	23.4
Ahmedabad	–	43.3	28.4	Kurnool	–	42.7	29.2
Aizawl	–	32.3	20.5	Lucknow	–	41.4	25.5
Allahabad	–	46.1	25.8	Madurai	–	39.7	26.9
Bengaluru	–	34.8	22.7	Mangaluru	–	35.2	26.0
Bhopal	–	–	25.8	Mumbai	–	34.9	25.0
Bhubaneswar	–	37.8	27.4	Mysuru	18	37.0	22.0
Chandigarh	–	43.3	25.2	New Delhi	–	43.5	25.7
Chennai	–	39.1	27.8	Patna	–	35.2	26.4
Coimbatore	–	35.2	24.4	Port Blair	–	34.2	25.8
Dehradun	–	38.8	21.1	Puducherry	–	36.2	27.4
Gangtok	15.6	20.4	14.5	Pune	–	39.5	24.9
Goa	–	34.2	28.0	Raipur	–	44.6	29.4
Guwahati	4	27.5	23.0	Ranchi	–	40.2	26.5
Hubballi	–	37.0	24.0	Shillong	10	19.1	12.5
Hyderabad	–	41.7	28.9	Shimla	–	32.0	22.6
Imphal	7	28.6	18.7	Srinagar	–	26.2	12.0
Jaipur	–	42.4	29.8	Thiruvananthapuram	33	33.4	25.2
Kochi	0.8	32.2	26.8	Tiruchi	–	40.0	28.5
Kohima	19	25.6	11.8	Vijayawada	–	41.8	27.8
Kolkata	0.1	35.6	25.9	Visakhapatnam	–	36.4	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	11	13	...	245	149	
Bengaluru	7	26	54	79	88	
Chennai	17	12	41	60	57	
Delhi	18	152	81	293	330	
Hyderabad	20	51	76	101	136	
Kolkata	18	20	22	82	122	
Lucknow	13	117	50	393	282	
Mumbai	–	10	103	69	75	
Pune	78	43	115	138	88	
Visakhapatnam	18	39	34	52	119	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hapur, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 376 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gadag, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 35

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Vice-Chief of Army Staff keeps ties with his village intact

Baggavalli villagers are proud of Lt. Gen. Raju's elevation

SATHISH G.T.
HASSAN

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, appointed next Vice-Chief of the Army Staff, is a native of Baggavalli in Ajjampur taluk of Chikkamagaluru district.

The residents of the village were in a joyous mood on Saturday after they learnt that a person from their village was in a senior position in the Indian Army. Lt. Gen. Raju is one among four children born to B.S. Somashekhar and Vimala. His younger brother is in the U.S., while his sisters are in Bengaluru. They all visit the native place occasionally and hold activities that benefit the locals.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju • PTI

Lt. Gen. Raju's father Mr. Somashekhar worked as the principal of government diploma colleges in different places. He had an ambition that one of his sons should join the Indian Army. He got Lt. Gen. Raju admitted to Sainik School in Vijayapura. "My uncle Somashekhar did not spend his retirement fund on his family. He fought with the government to get a high school sanctioned in the village and he spent his savings for its development," Lt. Gen. Raju's cousin B.P. Prabhu Kumar told *The Hindu*.

Lt. Gen. Raju did not cut his ties with the village after his father passed away eight years ago. "He comes to the village thrice a year. Each time, he brings books and mementoes for meritorious students. His siblings, one of whom is a doctor, conduct health camps for the villagers," Mr. Kumar said.

Many villagers gathered at Mr. Kumar's place on Saturday and greeted the family. "We are proud that he is from our village. He keeps returning to help our students," said B.G. Gurumurthy, president of Baggavalli GP.

Man posing as RAW officer held for cheating engineer of ₹89 lakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Bellandur police on Saturday arrested a 33-year-old realtor who pretended to be a RAW agent with the Prime Minister's office for allegedly cheating a city based software engineer of ₹89 lakh after promising to get her visas to other countries.

Based on a complaint filed by the victim, the police track down the accused, identified as Arahanth Mohan Kumar Lakkavall. He hails from Shivamogga and is a resident of Rajajinagar 4th block, said the police. According to the police, Mohan Kumar is a B.Com graduate employed with a real estate firm. In 2019, met the woman on a flight to Kuala Lumpur from Bengaluru.

"The accused introduced himself as a RAW agent working in the PMO in New Delhi," said the police. During the course of their conversation, the woman mentioned that her visa application to Italy and the Czech Republic had been rejected in 2019 without any reason. The accused promised to help find out the reason for the rejection using his official position and took her passport details.

Arahanth Mohan Kumar

They kept in touch over three years during which he reportedly called her and said that she had been blacklisted for suspected terrorists activities in many foreign countries. He promised to remove her name from the list, but remanded ₹6 crore. When she told him that she didn't have that kind of money, he convinced her to transfer ₹89 lakh to various accounts over a period of three years.

He even took her to the Whitefield police station and the CID office under the pretext of getting her the required clearances, but arranged it in such a way that she never met any inspector or senior police official.

He reportedly asked her to sit in the waiting area while he took care of it, and disappeared with her passport. Unable to get back her passport, the victim approached the police on April 26.

Cargo train derails at Yeshwantpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The derailment of a parcel cargo express has resulted in disruptions in train services operated on Bengaluru-Tumakuru line.

At around 9.10 p.m. on Saturday, the Delhi-bound cargo derailed at Yeshwantpur yard. The Chief PRO of SWR said the incident had minor impact on train services. Trains operated between Bengaluru and Karwar, Bengaluru and Shivamogga, and Hospet and Bengaluru were affected.

"After the incident, railway staff took all measures for speedy restoration of services. It was a minor derailment, a pair of wheels came off the track. Our officials are investigating the case," said the official.

RGUHS convocation

As many as 43,883 students were conferred degrees by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences at its 24th annual convocation on Saturday. Governor and Chancellor Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar and Vice-Chancellor M.K. Ramesh were among those present. • K. MURALI KUMAR

14-year-old girl becomes RFO for a day at Nagarahole

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

A 14-year-old girl with a strong desire to be a forest officer had her wish fulfilled when the authorities at Nagarahole Tiger Reserve designated her as a "Range Forest Officer" and she played her role with aplomb, for a day.

The "RFO" Aishwarya from Bevkal village in Mandya district is battling a life-threatening disease and undergoing treatment in Bengaluru. She had expressed her desire to be a forest officer and the NGO Make a Wish Foundation, which has operations in over 50 countries and helps fulfil the desire or the wish of children battling life-threatening diseases, took up her wish.

The organisation got in touch with the authorities and Mahesh Kumar, Director, Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, facilitated the fulfilment of Aishwarya's wish. A vehicle was sent to her village in Mandya from where Aishwarya - who was accompanied by her parents - was brought to Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Thursday evening. On Friday - which also happened to be World Wish Day - she "took charge" and "officiated" as an RFO. She adorned the uniform specially made for her and went around the forest getting a first-hand experience of the role and duties of RFO.

Aishwarya, 14, officiating as a Range Forest Officer at the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve.

Aishwarya visited an anti-poaching camp to learn of the duties of the field staff after which she visited the safari centre and interacted with staff and a few visitors. "Later she conducted a meeting of the range-level staff and went around the forest and did all that is expected of an RFO, after which she was dropped back at her village," said Mr. Mahesh Kumar.

It was an exercise in the making since six months as Aishwarya's health condition was too fragile to allow her to travel. There was a window of opportunity with an improvement in her health and the authorities utilised it.

Dalit activist from Mysuru gets bail

Harohalli Ravindra was arrested over a social media post

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

A local court granted bail to Harohalli Ravindra, a Dalit activist from Mysuru, who was facing charges for posting a message on social media that allegedly insulted Hindu Gods.

A team of officers had gone to Mysuru to arrest Mr. Ravindra and he was brought to Chikkodi on Saturday morning. He is facing charges for putting up a social media post attributed to him that allegedly insulted Hindu Gods in 2017. Mr. Ravindra told journalists in Kagwad that he does know under what case he was arrested. "I do not remember what social media post is being referred to. I am very active on social media. I keep posting several messages every day," he said.

The court has asked him to cooperate with the investigation, to appear before the court whenever required and not to attempt destruction of evidence, said a police officer.

Case filed in Chikkodi

The arrest was made in Mysuru on Friday in connection with a message that was reportedly posted in 2017. A case was filed in Chikkodi following a post by Mr. Ravindra in which he allegedly insulted Hindu Gods. A case has been booked under IPC 295 (Injuring or defiling place of worship with intent to insult the religion of any class). The maximum punishment provided under the code is two years imprisonment and fine.

The local court issued a non bailable warrant in this case. "For five years, investigators had been filing a charge sheets, identifying the accused as absconding. But he has now been traced in Mysuru and held, a police officer said. Officers maintain that the accused was sent a notice in 2019. But he had not attended the court till now. Hence, the arrest," an officer said.

Chandrashekar Bapu Munde, Hindutva activist, had filed the complaint against Mr. Ravindra in 2017.

In response to a statement by Ananth Kumar Hegde, MP and BJP leader, that said that secularists were "orphans who had neither father nor mother", Mr. Ravindra had related a story from the Bhagawata where Lord Krishna is described as a boy who is brought up by his non-biological parents. This had angered Hindutva activists who filed a case. The complainant had said that his post had insulted Hindu Gods.

Alternative proposal will cost at least ₹25,000 cr., says K-Rail

'Speed can't be attained even if parallel lines are developed'

DHINESH KALLUNGAL
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

An alternative project to the semi-high-speed rail SilverLine, by developing third and fourth lines parallel to the existing railway lines, will cost ₹20,000 crore for land acquisition and civil works and ₹5,000 crore for signalling, according to Kerala Rail Development Corporation Ltd. (K-Rail), the implementing agency of SilverLine.

At a recent open debate on SilverLine, environmental scientist R.V.G. Menon had asked K-Rail to compare the cost of the ₹64,000-crore SilverLine with the alternative proposal. Dr. Menon was of the view that developing the existing lines, without curves, would reduce the cost considerably as people living near existing rail lines would be willing to give up their land for the work.

V. Ajithkumar

K-Rail managing director V. Ajithkumar told *The Hindu* on Saturday that the SilverLine project first took shape from the idea of drawing the third and fourth parallel lines from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod to reduce travel time. An initial study in this angle came up with the figure of ₹25,000 crore for land acquisition, civil works, and automatic signalling system.

Additonal cost

Further, there would be additional cost of electrical works and rolling stocks. Even if parallel lines are drawn, the speed of a semi-high-speed rail cannot be attained on them, according to K-Rail. Venad Express had covered the distance from Thiruvananthapuram to Ernakulam in 3.5 hours decades ago. Now, the saturated capacity of the lines is hindering the introduction of new trains and speeding up of superfast and express trains.

Temple chariot runs over worker in Nagapattinam

He was engaged in placing blocks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NAGAPATTINAM

A 31-year-old worker died after being run over by the chariot of the Uthirapathiswarar temple at Thiruchenkattankudi in Nagapattinam district in the early hours of Saturday.

P. Deeparajan, the labourer, was engaged in placing wooden-wheel blocks for the chariot being pulled as part of the annual festival on Friday night.

The over 50-foot-high chariot's massive wheel ran over him while he was attempting to place the block as it was to take a turn near the Therkku Veedhi. The procession of the decorated chariot began at 11.50 p.m. and the accident took place around half-past midnight, police sources said.

The chariot of the Uthirapathiswarar temple, Thiruchenkattankudi.

A grievously injured and profusely bleeding Deeparajan was rushed to the Nagapattinam Government Hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Deeparajan's family is said to have been traditionally engaged in placing wooden blocks for temple chariots. Thirukannapuram police have registered a case.

FROM PAGE ONE

Governments ignoring court orders, says CJI

"The judiciary is also confronted with the issue of the executive willingly transferring the burden of decision-making to it. Though policy-making is not our domain, if a citizen comes to the court, with a prayer to address his grievance, the courts cannot say no...," CJI Ramana said.

Though all should be mindful of their *Lakshman Rekha* and the judiciary, least of all, does not want to interfere in governance if it is done in accordance with law, the "non-performance of the various wings of the government" and "legislature not realising its full potential" had forced the courts to intervene in the past, he said. These two factors were burdens the judicial system could be spared if the government and legislature perked up, he said.

"Ambiguities in legislation add to existing legal issues. If the legislature passes a law, with clarity of thought, foresight and with people's welfare in mind, the scope for litigation gets minimised. The legislature is expected to solicit the views of the public and debate the Bills, clause by clause, threadbare, before enacting a law," Chief Justice Ramana said.

Caution on PILs

A constant flow of self-serving cases in the guise of public interest litigation (PIL) petitions take up precious judicial time. The CJI said PIL pleas, once a well-meaning concept, had slipped into petitions filed to settle political scores and corporate rivalry. The courts had become "highly cautious" in entertaining them.

Judicial strength

Sanctioned judicial strength continued to be disproportionate to the burgeoning case load faced by district courts, High Courts and the Supreme Court. To prove his point, the CJI showed the difference in statistics in the six years between the last conference in 2016 and the current one.

He said there were 388 judicial vacancies in various High Courts out of 1,104 sanctioned posts. The Supreme Court Collegium had made 180 recommendations in 2021, of which 126 appointments were made. Another 50 proposals were still awaiting the Centre's approval.

PM for use of local languages in courts

Apart from Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana, Supreme Court judges, Chief Justices of High Courts and Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, several Chief Ministers attended the meet. West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, Delhi's Arvind Kejriwal, Chhattisgarh's Bhupesh Baghel, Jharkhand's Hemant Soren, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma and Punjab's Bhagwant Mann were among those present.

Appealing to the State governments to repeal archaic laws, the Prime Minister said: "In 2015, we identified about 1,800 laws that had become irrelevant/obsolete. Out of these, 1,450 such laws of the Centre were abolished. But only 75 such laws have been abolished by the States."

Mr. Modi said 75 years of Independence had continuously clarified the roles and responsibilities of both the judiciary and the executive, and wherever it was necessary, the relationship had evolved continuously to give directions to the country.

"In our country, while the role of the judiciary is that of the guardian of the Constitution, the legislature represents the aspirations of the citizens. The confluence and balance of these two branches will prepare the road map for an effective and time-bound judicial delivery system," he said.

Speaking after Justice Ramana, who had earlier suggested "Indianisation" of courts by using regional and local languages, Mr. Modi noted that the government was working on drafting legislations in two formats – one in typical legal language and the other in simple language that could be understood by ordinary people.

12 Janpath may become an ex-President's address

The President's press secretary, Ajay Kumar Singh, did not respond to a request for comment on whether Mr. Kovind would stay in Delhi post-retirement and more specifically at 12 Janpath.

Apart from serving as Paswan's home for over 30 years, 12 Janpath was also a hub of the Lok Janshakti Party that he founded.

In 2004, the house witnessed Congress president Sonia Gandhi walking over from her next-door residence at 10 Janpath to seek Paswan's support for the United Progressive Alliance to form the government.

As an ex-President, Mr. Kovind would be entitled to the use of a furnished residence, including its maintenance, without paying any licence fee as well as secretarial staff, as per the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

His present term ends on July 25, with Presidential elections expected earlier in July. No President since the first, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, has held office for two full terms.

(With inputs from Sobhana K. Nair)

Temperatures in May to be high in north, west

The average monthly maximum temperature over central India was 37.78 degrees Celsius, Mr. Mohapatra added.

A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40 degrees Celsius and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4 degrees, according to the IMD. Based on absolute recorded temperatures, a heatwave is declared when an area logs a maximum temperature of 45 degrees Celsius. A severe heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature crosses 47 degrees.

Several parts of north and west India have seen temperatures routinely above 42 degrees C.

India continues to be singed by a string of heatwaves since late March, largely due to the absence of rain-bearing strong Western Disturbances, or tropical storms that bring rain from the Mediterranean over north India. Cool temperatures in the Central Pacific, or a La Nina, that normally helps rain in India too have failed to bolster rainfall.

Tensions ease, Internet back in Patiala

SAD, Congress leaders accuse government of administrative incompetence over clashes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Saturday restored mobile Internet services in Patiala district as tensions eased and the situation slowly moved towards normal. However, Opposition parties alleged that the violence and clashes over the past few days were the result of the fledgling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government's administrative incompetence.

Keeping the peace: Security personnel stand guard outside the Kali Mata temple on Saturday, a day after clashes broke out between two groups in Patiala. • PTI

The district witnessed confrontation and violence since Friday after a clash between different groups over a march in the city against pro-'Khalistan' movements. Four persons, including two police personnel, were injured in the incident. Harish Singla, who has been accused of instigating the violence and arrested, was on Saturday sent to two-day police custody.

The State government also transferred the Inspector General of Police (Patiala Range), the Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Police after the incident.

Mukhwinder Singh Chhina, the new IGP (Patiala Range), said the administration had restored peace within 24 hours.

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal said the incidents of violence and communal flare-up in Patiala were a matter of grave concern and these incidents were the direct outcome of "the utter administrative incompetence and reckless political opportunism" of the AAP government.

"In a matter of just a few weeks, they have undone the fruit of decades of sacrifices of Punjabis for peace and communal harmony and brought the State to the edge of a dangerous communal precipice. This is the direct outcome of the politics of confrontation and communal hatred that the AAP has been practising in Punjab in recent years," Mr. Badal said in a statement.

The Akali leader also hit out at Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann for blaming the Opposition for the incidents.

"Mr. Mann needs to realise that there is a difference between the theatre of cheap entertainment on the one hand and the serious business of governance involving the destiny of crores of people on the other. While blaming the Opposition, the Chief Minister only hours before had blamed his own administration. He needs to make up his mind on who is really to blame for what happened," said Mr. Badal.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa of the Congress, also pointed a finger at Mr. Mann's approach to tackle the clashes. "Priorities Matter. Punjab Chief Minister is again off to New Delhi to attend a conference. Instead of attending the conference, he should have visited Patiala along with his DGP to take first hand stock of the situation," said Mr. Bajwa.

CBI conducts searches in Yes Bank case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The CBI on Saturday conducted searches on eight premises in Mumbai and Pune in connection with the Yes Bank-Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL) fraud. The premises included the houses of builders – Ashwini Bhonsale, Shahid Balwa and Vinod Goenka – because the Central agency suspects that their private companies were involved in the case.

On April 28, the CBI arrested Mumbai-based realtor Sanjay Chhabria of Radius Developers in the case. He has been remanded in CBI custody by court till May 6.

As per the CBI, Rana Kapoor, then promoter and CEO of Yes Bank, entered into a criminal conspiracy for extending financial assistance to DHFL.

Gen. Manoj Pande is Army chief

First officer from the Corps of Engineers to head the 1.3-million-strong Army

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

General Manoj Pande on Saturday took charge as the 29th Chief of the Army Staff from General Manoj Naravane, who retired from service. General Pande is the first officer from the Corps of Engineers to head the 1.3 million Army.

With his taking over, all the three Service Chiefs are now from the 61st Course of the National Defence Academy (NDA).

CDS to be appointed

The government is, however, yet to appoint the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), the post which has fallen vacant following the death of General Bipin Rawat, the first to occupy the post, in a helicopter crash in December.

Gen. Manoj Pande, left, taking over as the Chief of the Army Staff from Gen. Naravane in New Delhi. • SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

General Pande was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (the Bombay Sappers) in December 1982. He took over as Vice-Chief on February 1 and prior to that, was the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command, from June 1, 2021. From June 1, 2020 to May 31, 2021, he served as the 15th Commanding-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN).

General Pande is a graduate of the Staff College, Camberley, U.K., and attended the Higher Command Course at the Army War College, Mhow, and the National Defence College (NDC), Delhi. He was posted as Chief Engineer at the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

The General has commanded the 117 Engineer Regiment during Operation Parakram in the Pallanwala Sector of Jammu and Kashmir, along the Line of Control (LoC). He commanded an Engineer Regiment along the LoC and as part of the Strike Corps, an Infantry Brigade along the LoC, a Mountain Division in high-altitude area of western Ladakh and a Corps deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Assets of ₹7.27-crore seized from actor

ED says these are gifts by Sukesh Chandrasekhar to Jacqueline Fernandez

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets of ₹7.27 crore, including fixed deposits valued at ₹7.12 crore, of Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez, in connection with the money laundering case against "conman" Sukesh Chandrasekhar.

According to the agency, the accused had given various gifts estimated at ₹5.71 crore to Ms. Fernandez from funds generated through an extortion racket he ran from inside a Delhi jail in connivance with some prison officials.

Jacqueline Fernandez

"Sukesh Chandrasekhar had asked Pinky Irani, his long-time associate and co-accused in this case, to deliver the gifts to her [Ms. Fernandez]. In addition to these gifts, he also gave over U.S. $1.7 lakh and Australian $26,740 to her close family members through co-accused, Avtar Singh Kochhar, an established and well-known international hawala operator," an official said.

The "conman" also got delivered about ₹15 lakh to a scriptwriter on the actor's behalf as an advance for writing a script for her web series project. The cash amount has also been attached, the agency said.

The ED probe is based on a case registered by the Delhi Police. It is alleged that, while lodged in a Delhi jail, Mr. Chandrasekhar contacted people using caller ID spoofing apps, posing as a government official. They fell into his trap as the numbers reflecting on their phones would be of government offices.

Using the same *modus operandi*, the accused contacted Aditi Singh, wife of former Ranbaxy promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh, multiple times by impersonating the Union Home Secretary, Union Law Secretary, an officer in the Prime Minister's Office, and others. He extorted over ₹200 crore from her over a period of one year on the pretext of contributions to party funds.

Conspiracy behind my arrest: Jignesh Mevani

Gujarat MLA says fight will continue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Independent Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani, released on bail after more than a week in police custody in Assam, said his arrest was a conspiracy by the BJP to harass him.

Jignesh Mevani

Intimidation and misuse of the government machinery would not deter him from his fight against the "anti-people" policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), he said.

Arrested from Gujarat's Palanpur on April 20 for an allegedly offensive tweet against the Prime Minister, Mr. Mevani was granted bail on April 29 by the Barpeta district and sessions court. He was released later that night.

The court had observed that the first information report (FIR) against him was falsely registered. According to the FIR, the MLA had "assaulted and outraged the modesty" of a policewoman while being escorted from the Guwahati airport to western Assam's Kokrajhar on April 21.

Two FIRs

This FIR was the second against him in a space of two days. The first was based on an April 19 complaint lodged by Arup Kumar Dey, a BJP executive member in Assam's autonomous Bodoland Territorial Council, for an alleged controversial tweet against the Prime Minister.

"Modi*ji* was coming to Gujarat and I tweeted that he should appeal for the maintenance of peace and harmony in the riot-hit areas. Did this merit the registration of an FIR by the police? The conspiracy clearly shows," Mr. Mevani told presspersons on Saturday.

On the second case registered against him, he said the woman sub-inspector of police who lodged the FIR could have been under tremendous pressure from the government.

"The BJP wanted to harass me, but I do not feel harassed. Rather the country got the message that the BJP is targeting me for believing in the Constitution," he said, daring the government to arrest Nirav Modi, Mehul Choksi, Vijay Mallya and others, who fled the country after massive scams.

"My fight against Modi*ji*, the RSS and the BJP will continue. I will fight for truth and for the people of Gujarat. There are protests going on in Gujarat. There is a jail *bharo andolan* across Gujarat tomorrow [Sunday]," he said.

He thanked the Assam Congress leaders and workers for supporting him. The constables of Assam Police were "quite cooperative", he added.

POCSO court awards death sentence to two

Case officer scheme ensures fast trial

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The death sentence awarded to two convicted rapists, who also murdered a 15-year-old victim, by a Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court in Bundi over the weekend, was based on the case officer scheme, which ensured fast submission of the chargesheet and a speedy trial. The court considered it to be a "rarest of the rare" case because of brutalisation of the girl's body.

The tribal girl was gang-raped and murdered in a forest area in Bundi district on December 23, 2021. The police cracked the blind case within 12 hours by arresting three persons after a night-long search operation, which ensured that the culprits could not escape from the forest area. The third accused was a minor.

This is the first case under the POCSO Act in Rajasthan, in which two convicts have been simultaneously sentenced to death. Judge Bal Krishan Mishra handed down the capital punishment to Sultan Bheel, 27, and Chotulal Bheel, 62, after recording the testimony of 22 witnesses and examining the evidence produced by the prosecution through 79 documents.

Bundi SP Jai Yadav said since the probe was taken up under the case officer scheme, a special public prosecutor was appointed to argue the case and the chargesheet was filed within three working days. The judgment came within four months despite the court being closed for one-and-a-half months during the pandemic.

ED seizes ₹5,551 crore of Xiaomi India under FEMA

It was sent to three foreign-based entities as royalty: agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has seized ₹5,551.27 crore from Xiaomi Technology India Private Ltd. under the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), in connection with the alleged illegal remittances made by the company.

Xiaomi India is a wholly owned subsidiary of the China-based Xiaomi group. "This amount was lying in the bank accounts of the company," said an official.

According to the ED, the company launched its operations in India in 2014 and started remitting the money from next year. It sent foreign currency equivalent to ₹5,551.27 crore to three foreign-based entities, which include one Xiaomi group entity, in the guise of royalties.

Mobile phones are made in India, so there is no need to transfer such amounts, says Xiaomi spokeperson.

"Such huge amounts in the name of royalties were remitted on the instructions of their Chinese parent group entities. The amounts remitted to the other two U.S.-based unrelated entities were also for the ultimate benefit of the Xiaomi group entities," the agency alleged.

Xiaomi India is a trader and distributor of mobile phones in India under the brand name of MI. It procures the completely manufactured mobile sets and other products from the manufacturers in India; and has not taken any service from the three foreign-based entities to which such amounts were transferred, said the ED. The agency alleged that under the cover of various unrelated documentary facade created among the group entities, the company sent the amounts overseas in violation of the FEMA.

"As a brand committed to India, all our operations are firmly compliant with local laws and regulations, said a Xiaomi spokesperson.

Uddhav to launch political outreach drive

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

As Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray is set to address a rally in Aurangabad on Sunday amid the row over loudspeakers in mosques, Shiv Sena chief and Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray too has decided to embark upon a political outreach campaign by addressing a rally in Mumbai on May 14. He accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of dividing Hindus for the sake of votes.

Kicking-off the second phase of the *Shiv Sampark Abhiyan* by addressing party leaders on Saturday, Mr. Thackeray directed his colleagues to start working for the upcoming local body polls.

Mr. Thackeray said he would be travelling in the State to meet people.

BJP stages protest outside Delhi CM's residence over VAT on fuel

Why is AAP govt. not reducing tax on petrol, diesel, ask saffron party workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi unit of the BJP on Saturday staged a demonstration near the residence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal demanding that the Delhi government reduce the value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel in the national capital.

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta accused the Aam Aadmi Party government of allowing a "consistent rise" in diesel prices since it came to power in the capital.

When contacted, the Delhi government did not issue a response to the BJP's allegations.

"Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Goa and other BJP or NDA-ruled States have already reduced VAT on diesel but the Kejriwal government hasn't," Mr. Gupta said. "Two days ago, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged State governments to do the needful in this context, others agreed but Kejriwal seems least bothered about Delhiites and is only concerned with making money."

Face to face: BJP workers staging a protest over fuel prices in Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

Liquor price cuts

The BJP alleged that the Delhi government had earned ₹300 crore from VAT on diesel over the past eight months.

Instead of reducing fuel prices, the party alleged that the Delhi government had chosen to effect a price cut only on liquor in the city.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri questioned the AAP government's priorities. "Even Satyendra Jain, who is Delhi Jal Board Chairman, admitted that water being supplied by the Board isn't worth drinking. Delhi is now the world's most polluted city," Mr. Bidhuri alleged.

"In past seven years there have been no new flyovers, schools or colleges or hospitals for that matter. What can one expect from a person who can't even give ration to the poor," Mr. Bidhuri asked.

Order on bail plea by Ranas tomorrow

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Civil and Sessions Court in the city on Saturday said it would pass an order on May 2 on the bail plea by Independent MP Navneet Kaur Rana and her husband and MLA Ravi Rana in the *Hanuman Chalisa* row.

The Ranas were arrested on April 23 for declaring that they would recite the *Hanuman Chalisa* outside Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's residence.

The couple were booked under Sections 124A (sedition) and 153A of the Indian Penal Code.

Special public prosecutor Pradeep Gharat, representing the Mumbai Police, opposed their bail plea and said that the Ranas were politically powerful people and would sabotage the probe if released.

Drama high for Manipur village scarred by conflict

Ringui in Ukhrul district relives its dark days through a play

RAHUL KARMAKAR
UKHRUL (MANIPUR)

The security forces had temporarily banned the screening of *Ramcho Ramrin*, a 180-minute movie on Naga revolutionaries, almost three decades ago. The title of the 1994 film means "empty land" in the Tangkhul language.

Directed by Wungchan Makang, *Ramcho Ramrin* was a departure from the romantic films that were churned out for almost two decades until the last of Ukhrul's video halls shut down in 1998.

No armed forces personnel were around when Semmi Makang staged his play, *Philachon Malhotra*, on April 21 as part of the 75th anniversary of the Zingtun Tangkhul Katamnao Long, a youth organisation, at Talui near Ukhrul. But few missed the connection between this 55-minute drama on the dilemma of a single mother and the 1994 film.

Both the film and the play were based on a story by Vaorei Makang, who happens to be Mr. Semmi's father. Both alluded to the "Naga political issue" relating to decades of conflict for self-rule across the Naga-inhabited areas, primarily in Manipur and the adjoining Nagaland. And the crew members of both, including the actors, were mostly from Ringui.

Many of the approximately 3,000 people in Ringui, a hilltop village about 60 km from Manipur's capital Imphal and 37 km from district headquarters Ukhrul, have been into one or more aspects of filmmaking or theatre since the 1980s.

The theatrical bent of mind of its residents did not guarantee Ringui immunity from counter-insurgency operations across the Tangkhul-dominated landscape. One of the reasons was probably its proximity to Somdal, the birthplace of Thuingaleng Muivah, general secretary of the extremist NSCN (I-M), that has been in ceasefire mode since 1997.

Taking centre stage: A poster of the play *Philachon Malhotra* in Manipur's Ukhrul district. • RAHUL KARMAKAR

Philachon Malhotra gives a glimpse of the ordeal the villagers had to go through during those days.

"Philachon Chahongnao, the lead character, is a widow troubled by the armed forces like all other villagers before the ceasefire. After the ceasefire, the Army camp nearby has a new commander named Ajay Malhotra, who develops a relationship with Philachon," Mr. Semmi said.

Trouble starts when Philachon's son returns from boarding school, finds her pregnant and says she is no longer a Chahongnao but a Malhotra. The play ends with Philachon, after an unsuccessful attempt to kill self, setting out to a world of uncertainty – almost like the ceasefire, as critics have pointed out.

Angel Ahum and Shaingam, who played Philachon and Ajay, are from Ringui, as are the other members of the cast and those behind the scenes.

Mr. Semmi, who teaches mathematics at the village high school, took to theatre after attending a workshop at Ringui in 2009, two years before his father's play, *Ashang Eina Aton*, was staged at the Bharat Rang Mahotsav in Delhi.

One of his mentors is Wungkathing Makang, also a Ringui resident recognised by the Manipur State Film Development Society a couple of days ago as one of the pioneers of filmmaking in the State. He has directed about 20 films, including the popular *Tipkhawon*, *Kongphei Chili* and *Manho* – all love stories.

He had gone off the beaten track by making documentaries on social issues such as *Ngara Kachang* ('Tilling the Fields') that dealt with girls' education.

"Lack of market and digital penetration led to a vacuum in filmmaking after the 1990s, but younger people are now experimenting with interesting themes – on film or on stage. We hope the film centre to be set up at Ringui materialises to promote creativity," he said. The Manipur government had sanctioned ₹63 crore for the centre in 2019 but only ₹5 lakh has been released so far.

Loudspeaker row is useless talk, says Nitish

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

A day after BJP leader and Bihar Minister for Mines and Geology Janak Ram said that the implementation of the law to remove loudspeakers in Uttar Pradesh would have its impact in the State too, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday dismissed it as "useless talk", saying everyone had the right to follow his or her religion.

"All these are useless talk. We do not ever interfere in any religious issues in Bihar. Everyone has the right to follow their religion," Mr. Kumar said while speaking to mediapersons after inaugurating the State's first grain-based ethanol plant in Purnia.

BJP leader and State Industry Minister Shahnawaj Hussain, who was present, told mediapersons to ask questions on the ethanol plant rather than on the removal of loudspeakers, reflecting the schism in the ruling coalition.

"There is no need of such things (ban of loudspeakers) in Bihar as all religions must be respected," said JD(U) leader and Rural Development Minister Shrawan Kumar

On Friday, Mr. Janak Ram had said, "No religion is bigger than the law of the country. So if this law has come into force in Uttar Pradesh, it will have its impact in Bihar as well. Leaders from the Centre and the State will sit together and mull over it for its implementation in Bihar."

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav slammed the BJP for raking up such issues, and accused the party of indulging in "divisive politics".

'Attempt to engineer hate against Modi government'

Ex-bureaucrats, veterans hit back at peers' letter to PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a tit-for-tat of letters over recent incidents of communal violence, a group of 197 retired judges, bureaucrats and armed forces officers on Saturday wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi questioning the motivations of an earlier open letter by another group calling upon him to end hate politics.

On Tuesday, a group of ex-diplomats and IAS, IPS and IRS officers, under the banner of Constitutional Conduct Group (CCG), had written to Mr. Modi asking him to end "hate politics" and expressed concern over the recent instances of communal violence in the country. In response, the group of 197 retired officials wrote: "It is a repeated effort to draw attention to themselves as citizens with a higher sense of social purpose, whereas the reality is that this is a manifest political anti-Modi government exercise which this group undertakes periodically in the belief that they can shape public opinion against the ruling dispensation. This is way for them to release their frustration that public opinion remains solidly behind Prime Minister Modi as recent State elections have shown."

The letter accused the signatories of the CCG letter of fuelling the politics of hate by "attempting to engineer hate against the present government" and of holding double standards by not raising concern over the post-poll violence in West Bengal.

"The CCG should not give ideological cover to an anti-national outlook as well as religious and left-wing extremism, which they seem to do. These former civil servants should not be orchestrating a false narrative of "colorable use of state power," the letter said.

Among the signatories to the latest letter were eight retired judges, former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal and former Delhi Police Commissioner B.S. Bassi.

Rahul takes a dig at PM over power crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the current power crisis and asked whom he would blame for his failure on this front.

"The Prime Minister's promises and intentions have always been disconnected. Modi*ji*, who will you blame for your failure in this power crisis? Nehru*ji* or States or people?" Mr. Gandhi asked in a tweet.

He also tagged a video showing past speeches of Mr. Modi promising in 2015 to make electricity available 24 hours across the country and claiming in 2017 that one no longer heard headlines of power crisis or coal crisis.

Separate High Courts needed for Punjab and Haryana: Lal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Separate High Courts should be set up for Haryana and Punjab, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal said on Saturday. He added that both States would duly send their proposals to the Union Home Ministry.

He was interacting with reporters after attending the joint conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts in New Delhi. Mr. Lal said the demand for separate High Courts was raised at the conference. "Punjab Chief Minister also demanded the setting up of a separate High Court for Punjab," he said. Mr. Lal also made a demand for a separate High Court for the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

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NIEPMD invites E-Tender through NIC e-procurement portal URL http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app" in two bid system from reputed OEMs and their authorised suppliers & Distributors having proven track record in supplying Android / IOS tablets and Daisy Players to institutes / colleges / Special schools / NGOs. The e-tender details & document can also be downloaded from the NIEPMD website www.niepmd.tn.nic.in. and NIC E-procurement portal: https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app

Last date and Time for E-bidding	21.05.2022 (6.00 PM)
Date and Time of opening EOI	23.05.2022 (4.00 PM)

Sd/- Director

THE ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD – 500 007, Telangana (A Central University)

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited for admissions to the following research programmes and PGDTE, PGDTA and PGDT courses at Hyderabad, Shillong and Lucknow for the academic year **2022-2023.**

Ph.D. Programmes: Ph.D. Linguistics and Phonetics; English Language Education; Education; English Literature; Translation Studies; Hindi; Comparative Literature; Indian and World Literatures; Aesthetics and Philosophy; Film Studies and Visual Culture; Social Exclusion Studies; Cultural Studies; Media and Communication; Arabic Language & Literature; French Language & Literature; German Language & Literature; Russian Language & Literature; Spanish Language & Literature.

PG Diploma Courses: Post Graduate Diploma in the Teaching of English (PGDTE), Post Graduate Diploma in the Teaching of Arabic (PGDTA) and Post Graduate Diploma in Translation Studies (PGDT).

The link to the application form and the Prospectus are available on the University website: **www.efluniversity.ac.in**

In case you need further clarification : ☎040 – 27689647(Helpline), 040 - 27689733 (Information Centre)
The last date for the receipt of applications is **18 May 2022**

Sd/- REGISTRAR

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SPECIAL PROJECT DEPARTMENT

S.P.D.C.No.81/0452/2022

CORRIGENDUM-I

The Special Project Department has invited Request for Qualification (RfQ) for Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) of Public Convenience Toilet Lounges at Pilot location in Zone-V, VI & IX (Marina) in Chennai City. It was published on 15.04.2022 in The Hindu English daily newspaper and Murasoli Tamil daily newspaper. The following changes are to be published.

As Published	Revised
Name of the Work: Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) of Public Convenience Toilet Lounges at Pilot locations in Zones 5,6 & 9 of Chennai City	Name of the Work: Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) of Public Convenience Toilet Lounges at Pilot location in Zone-V, VI & XI (Marina) in Chennai City
RfQ Publishing details: It will be available upto 02 June 2022	RfQ Publishing details: It will be available upto 23 June 2022
Last date for receiving Queries: Queries should only be mailed to sespecialprojects@gmail.com before 5.45pm on 02 May 2022	Last date for receiving Queries: Queries should only be mailed to sespecialprojects@gmail.com before 5.45pm on 01 June 2022
Pre-Application Meeting for RfQ Queries: On 2 May 2022 at 03.00pm	Pre-Application Meeting for RfQ Queries: On **01 June 2022** at 03.00pm
RfQ Submission date and time: 02 June 2022 upto 3.00p.m.	RfQ Submission date and time: **23 June 2022** upto 3.00 p.m.
RfQ opening date and time: 03 June 2022 upto 3.00 p.m.	RfQ opening date and time: **24 June 2022**, 3.00 p.m.
All the other conditions remain the same.	Superintending Engineer (Special Projects)

DIPR / 2867 /Tender/2022

Bhartendu Academy of Dramatic Arts
(An Autonomous Institution under the Department of Culture, Govt. of U.P)

Admission Notice - 2022
Two Year Diploma in Dramatic Arts
(Full Time Residential Course)
Session starts from 15 July, 2022

Applications are invited for two year diploma course in dramatic arts conducted by Bhartendu Natya Akademi, which imparts comprehensive professional training in Acting, Direction, Designing and Theatre Techniques etc.

Medium : Hindi & English

Essential Qualification: Graduation from a recognized university. Good knowledge of Hindi & English. Working experience of ten plays & comprehensive study of ten Indian & Western plays.

Age Limit : 20-30 Years as on 01.05.2022
(Five years relaxation in age limit for S.C/S.T/OBC candidates.)

Reservation: Candidates in the category of S.C/S.T/OBC/E.W.S etc. will get reservation as per rules.

Selection: Selection of candidates will happen through written test, interview and audition. The Candidates qualifying in above test, interview and audition, will have to attend a workshop of Four days at the Academy campus for final selection. For this workshop, they will be provided accommodation on a modest sharing basis. Decision of the selection committee will be final. Any form of canvassing or approach will be considered as disqualification.

Facilities for the students: Fully furnished hostel, self financed cooperative mess, Cable T.V., internet Wi-Fi, Newspapers.

Fee: Fee is chargeable for the training, but 4500/-(Rupees Four thousand five hundred only) per month will be paid as scholarship for Tuition/Hostel fees, Training material & healthy food.

Seats: 20 Seats

Admission form can be obtained from B.N.A. office on **payment of Rs. 500/- by cash or bank draft in favour of Director, Bhartendu Natya Akademi,** Lucknow: or be downloaded from the website (www.bnalko.in) of the Academy and submit along with bank draft of Rs 500/-. Last date of submitting the duly filled application form is **25.05.2022**

Note- The Written exam and interview will be held on at the centres, Varanasi (12 June 2022), **Gorakhpur** (14 June, 2022), **Agra** (16 June, 2022), **Meeaut** (18 June 2022) **and Lucknow** (20 June 2022). **Applicants can select the centre-city as per their convenience. The second round of practical exam (workshop) with the candidates having succeeded in the first round of written exam and interview (audition) will be conducted at the campus of Bhartendu Bhawan, Vikas Khand-1, Gomit Nagar Lucknow on the dates-26, 27, 28, and 29 June 2022. In special condition there may be change of examination place.**

Prof. Dinesh Khanna
Director

Ro No 175626 , Ro Date 29/4/22 & website- www.upgov.nic.in

"Bhartendu Bhawan" Vikas Khand-1, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010
Ph.: 0522-2300598; Website : www.bnalko.in ; Email : bna.lko@gmail.com

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-04/1524/2022-23 Date: 30.04.2022

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Super Grade Electrical License issued from KCEI & Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of **Establishment of 2x20 MVA, 66/11kV Substation & Construction of 66kV DC line with Drake Conductor up to the proposed 66/11kV Sira Industrial Area for a distance of 4.2km by making Double LILO Arrangements at Sira Industrial Area 1st Phase, Tumakuru District on total turnkey basis.**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **23.05.2022 upto 04:00 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CPI364/Zenkar/2022-23

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Government of India)
Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2022-23

For Registration & information log on to : www.imu.edu.in

To join webinar at 4.00 PM on 02.05.22(Monday) visit- https://youtu.be/ymWMiD5aJro

For information on Maritime Courses, scan QR code to join the webinar at 16:00 hrs on 02.05.22, Monday.

BBA & PG Programmes

MBA - International Transportation & Logistics Management- (Chennai/Kochi/Kolkata/ Visakhapatnam)	BBA - Logistics, Retailing & E-Commerce - (Chennai/Kochi)	M. Tech - Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering- (Visakhapatnam)
MBA - Port & Shipping Management- (Chennai/Kochi)	*BBA - Apprenticeship Embedded Maritime Logistics- (Visakhapatnam)	M. Tech - Dredging & Harbour Engineering- (Visakhapatnam)
CET Helpline - 044-24539027 044-24539028 For enquiries, email us at cet22@imu.ac.in bba22@imu.ac.in	*Students of BBA - Apprenticeship Embedded Maritime Logistics will receive a Stipend of Rs 7500 per month during their apprenticeship period.	M. Tech- Marine Engineering & Management- (Kolkata)

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DAVP No.3726/8/12/0002/2223

IN BRIEF

Defamation case: ₹1,500 fine paid to Rahul

THANE

The complainant in a defamation case filed against Rahul Gandhi has paid ₹1,500 cost to the Congress leader as per the directions of a court at Bhiwandi. The complaint was filed by RSS activist Rajesh Kunte who had moved applications seeking adjournment in the case twice, which the court had rejected and asked him to pay ₹500 (for March) and ₹1,000 (for April) to Mr. Gandhi. PTI

Man shoots at mother during a celebration

NEW DELHI

A man allegedly shot at his 54-year-old mother during a ceremony at Chattarpur in south Delhi on Thursday, the police said. They said that the shooting occurred at a wedding at Matangi Bhawan, Chattarpur Mandi. The accused is on the run and efforts to trace him are under way, the police added.

Indian peacekeepers in Sudan honoured

UNITED NATIONS

Over 1,100 Indian peacekeepers serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) were awarded UN medals, honouring them for their exceptional service in the strife-torn East African country. PTI

Clarification

The strapline for the report "Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju is new Vice Chief of Army Staff" in The Hindu, dated April 30, should read "Rare instance of three-star officer taking over as Vice-Chief before heading a Command", and not as published.

Autism support network to help give specialised care in rural India

To enable mentoring, skilling and livelihoods for people with autism

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

To create awareness of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and help people understand, accept and support individuals with autism and their parents and caregivers, the Tata Power Community Development Trust (TPCDT) has partnered with the Centre for Autism and Other Disabilities Rehabilitation Research and Education (CADRRE), a not-for-profit organisation based in Thiruvananthapuram, to launch "Pay Autention – a different mind is a gifted mind", India's first bridgital autism support network.

The initiative shall pave the way for small towns and rural India to access specialised care and support and help create an auxiliary network of champions for the differently abled. This platform shall also enable mentoring, skilling and meaningful livelihoods for people with autism.

For a cause: An awareness rally undertaken to mark World Autism Day in Navi Mumbai. PTI

In the first phase, the initiative will primarily focus on supporting children with autism, and subsequently, in the second stage, it will focus on young adults, empowering them with life skills and career readiness. The content is designed and delivered in collaboration with specialists from CADRRE who have expertise in training children with autism.

Helpline launched

The project aims to create a network of grassroots champions, enable early identification, first-level care, teach social skills, ways to ease activities of daily living, hold workshops for sensory and motor development – art and craft, dance, music therapy, physical and mental fitness, communication skills and enable support for academics. In addition to this, a toll-free autism support helpline is also launched at 18002099 488 to provide interactive support and much-needed professional aid for families in need.

In a statement, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekaran said: "I congratulate Tata Power and CADRRE for launching the first-of-its-kind autism support network. As a responsible corporate group, we are committed to enabling equitable and balanced growth of economy and society at large. The vision is to facilitate bridgital connectivity and social infrastructure with better access for all - including differently abled and rural communities".

Tata Power CEO & MD Praveer Sinha said the effort "is to unlock possibilities for autistic individuals, through professional care and support, lighting up their lives and ensuring we walk the path of truly leaving no one behind".

CADRRE honorary director G. Vijaya Raghavan said that in the next few years, this should become a platform that changes the lives of countless families impacted by autism.

Heatwaves are starting earlier than before: WMO

Weather body sounds note of caution

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

As large parts of India and Pakistan experience scorching temperatures, the UN's specialised agency on weather has said while it is premature to attribute the extreme heat in the two countries solely to climate change, it is consistent with a changing climate, with heatwaves starting earlier than in the past.

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Friday, "It is premature to attribute the extreme heat in India and Pakistan solely to climate change. However, it is consistent with what we expect in a changing climate. Heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and starting earlier than in the past."

The global body added that national meteorological and hydrological departments in both countries were working closely with health and disaster management agencies to roll out heat health action plans which have been successful in saving lives.

Cascading impact

"Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impacts not just on human health, but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water and energy supplies and key sectors of the economy," the WMO said, adding that the risks to society underline why it is committed to ensuring that multi-hazard early warning services reach the most vulnerable. "In the pre-monsoon period, India and Pakistan regularly experience excessively high temperatures, especially in May. Heatwaves do occur in April but are less common," the WMO said.

CMs assure CJI Ramana of better court security

No consensus yet on judicial infrastructure authority

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Ministers of various States on Saturday assured Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana that security at court complexes, including District Courts, would be improved on the lines of a two-tier security system followed in Jammu and Kashmir but there was no consensus on setting up a National Judicial Infrastructure Authority (NJIA) to decide on judicial infrastructure.

Such a body would be created at the State level where the Chief Minister of a particular State along with the Chief Justice of the High Court would decide on infrastructure.

Addressing a joint press conference along with Law Minister Kiren Rijiju after day-long deliberations of the conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices, the CJI also pointed out the bottlenecks in using regional language in courts.

Both Justice Ramana and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had spoken about using local language in courts during the inaugural session.

Justice Ramana said, "Sometimes some of the judges are not familiar with the local language and the Chief Justice [of a High Court] will always be from outside."

The CJI said a full Bench of the Supreme Court in 2014 had rejected a plea to use local language in courts but the debate resurfaced as Tamil Nadu raised the issue of using regional language in judicial proceedings.

"We do not have the technology or systems where the entire records have to be translated to local language or from local language to English. The logistic support is the biggest problem... We cannot implement reform in one day. I think it will happen only over a period of time," the Chief Justice of India noted.

Don't go to Pak. to pursue medical course: panel

'Not eligible to practise in India'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has advised Indian students not to enrol themselves in medical colleges in Pakistan.

The public notice issued by the NMC came days after the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) through a joint advisory urged Indian students not to enrol themselves in any college or educational institution in Pakistan, failing which they will not be eligible to find a job or pursue higher education in this country.

"Any Indian nationals/ Overseas Citizens of India who intends to take admission in MBBS/BDS or equivalent medical course in any medical college of Pakistan shall not be eligible for appearing in FMGE or seeking employment in India on the basis of educational qualifications (in any subject) acquired in Pakistan except those who had joined Pakistan degree colleges/institutions before December 2018 or later after obtaining security clearance from MHA till date," the public notice issued on April 29 read.

The FMGE/NEXT (Foreign Medical Graduates Examination/National Exit Test) is a licensing test for students to practise in India.

However, migrants and their children who have acquired medical degree or higher education in Pakistan and have been awarded citizenship by India would continue to be eligible for appearing in FMGE/NEXT or seeking employment in India after obtaining security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), it added.

Gross green violations in Sundarbans: CAG

Construction at East Kolkata Wetlands is also against CRZ norms, says report

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

A recent audit report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has pointed out illegal construction and violations of environmental norms in two Ramsar sites in West Bengal, the East Kolkata Wetlands (EKW) and the Sunderbans.

"There were illegal constructions in the EKW and Coastal Regulation Zone area in Sunderbans. However, such violations even in these ecologically fragile areas were rarely found to have been penalised; on a couple of rare occasions, (when) they were done, it was in compliance with the Kolkata High Court's orders," the CAG report said.

The report was made public in the last week of March before the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. The EKW, a unique peri-urban ecosystem that lies on the eastern fringes of Kolkata, covers an area of about 12,500 hectares. It is spread over 37 *mouzas* of the State's South and North 24 Parganas districts. The CAG report pointed out that failure to delineate boundaries of the EKW and uncontrolled transfer of land resulted in its change of character and lack of effective action by the EKWMA (East Kolkata Wetland Management Authority).

A view of Ghoramara island after high tide. FILE PHOTO

"In absence of effective measures by EKWMA, waterbodies were dried up and filled illegally. Since 2007, EKWMA has identified 357 cases of violation, out of which 101 cases were identified between December 2015 and March 2020," the audit said .

Hovercraft station

The CAG has also raised a red flag about a hovercraft station in Frazerganj in South 24 Parganas district. "Indian Coast Guard applied (September 2017) for setting up a hovercraft station in Frazerganj," the CAG stated. According to the site plan, ICG would construct a guard room, officer's mess and accommodation, park, fuel bunk, sailors' institute, holiday home and a play ground.

"CRZ notification disallows construction of residential buildings in the No Development Zone. CRZ clearances by the West Bengal State Coastal Zonal Management Authority for constructions of buildings ... was against the notification," the report stated. The audit report points at a delay in the coastal zone management plan (CZMP), construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters without clearances of CRZ norms and construction of three helipads and VIP rest houses in ecologically sensitive areas in the Sundarbans.

The CAG report has highlighted serious violations of CRZ norms in the Sundarbans particularly for an ecotourism project at Jharkhali. "The West Bengal government had undertaken (October 2015) a project of an ecotourism hub after clearing 69 acres of mangrove. Even the river channel, breeding place of crocodiles, was claimed by the project," the report said.

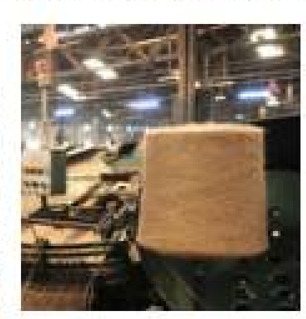
Bengal jute crisis: BJP MP summoned to New Delhi

Arjun Singh attacks Centre over workers' plight in industry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Amid the ongoing crisis in the West Bengal jute industry, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Arjun Singh was on Saturday summoned to New Delhi and he is likely to meet Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal. Mr. Singh has been blaming the Centre and the Office of the Jute Commissioner for the plight of thousands of workers of the State's jute mills. Over a dozen of jute mills have closed in the State in the past few months.

On Friday, the Barrackpore BJP MP wrote letters to Chief Ministers of jute-producing and manufacturing States, including Mamata Banerjee. "I am requesting you to interfere in this matter with the Union Ministry of Textiles for saving millions of jute farmers, jute workers and jute industry," he wrote.



The jute industry in West Bengal is facing losses.

Earlier, Mr. Singh had threatened to take to the streets and protest against the Office of Jute Commissioner of India if the issue was not sorted out.

Before leaving for Delhi, Mr. Singh said that he had received a call from the office of the Union Textile Minister. The MP said that the issue of jute was a matter of life and death for him, and asked that if the jute industry suffered because of the Centre's policies, then why would the people of the region (Barrackpore) continue to support the BJP?

Meanwhile, political circles in the State are rife with speculation that the BJP MP's recent remarks may have something more to do than the crisis in the jute industry. Some people feel that Mr. Singh, a former Trinamool Congress MP, is trying to warm to the party.

SUDOKU

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9	4			7	5	1	8	
	3	7	8	1			9	5
6	1		5		7			
		3					7	
	7				1	8		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	7	2	1	3	9	4	8	6
6	3	1	4	2	8	7	5	9
4	9	8	7	5	6	1	3	2
8	5	9	2	6	1	3	7	4
7	1	4	5	9	3	2	6	8
3	2	6	8	7	4	5	9	1
9	6	5	3	1	2	8	4	7
2	8	3	6	4	7	9	1	5
1	4	7	9	8	5	6	2	3

Dry spell sparks wildfires across Himachal

Several acres of forest have been destroyed

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

The prolonged dry spell coupled with unusually high temperatures in recent days has triggered many wildfires in Himachal Pradesh, destroying several hectares of forest cover across many parts of the hill State.

The early onset of summer this year in the hills posed a major challenge to the State government's efforts to control forest fires and with dry weather conditions and high temperatures expected to continue, the task has become more difficult.

719 incidents

According to government data, till April 28 this year, as many as 719 incidents of forest fires have been reported across the State, affecting close to 5,662 hectares under forest circles of Shimla, Chamba, Bilaspur, Dharamshala, Hamirpur, Kullu Mandi, Rampur, Nahan and the Great Himalayan National Park at Shamshi in the Kullu region. The estimated loss so far has been pegged at around ₹1.4 crore.

Tough to control: Smoke rises from a forest fire on a hill near Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh. AP

In 2018-19, the State witnessed as many as 2,544 forest fire incidents while in 2019-20 the figure was down to 1,445. In 2020-21, there were 1,045 forest fire incidents and in 2021-22 as many as 1,275 fire instances were reported.

"We are witnessing a prolonged dry spell this year; there's hardly any moisture in the soil. High atmospheric temperature and dryness offer favourable circumstances for a fire to start in the forest. The unusually warm weather is a big reason for the spurt in fires," Ajai Srivastava, Principal Chief Conservator Forest with the Forest Department, told *The Hindu*.

"The maximum number of forest fires are human-generated – many accidental but a few deliberate ones. In several areas, there is a practice of burning the pasture lands to get rid of the dry leaf litter to ensure fresh grass growth for livestock. Usually, when there is intermittent rainfall, such fires do not go out of control but when there's prolonged dry weather, many of these fires go out of control," Mr. Srivastava explained.

"We regularly sensitise people and seek their help in forest fire control and management," he said.

"Since mid-March, the average maximum temperature has been 4-5 degrees Celsius above normal while the average minimum temperature has been 2-3 degrees Celsius above normal at many places of Himachal Pradesh. This trend is expected to continue in the coming days as well. Both the maximum and minimum temperatures have been abnormally higher this year over a month," said Surinder Pal, Director at IMD, Shimla.

"Around 15% of area across the State is vulnerable to forest fires and pine forests are more susceptible," said Anil Sharma, Chief Conservator of Forest with the State Forest Department.

'Invest Rajasthan' summit targets ₹10-lakh-cr. outlay

Major focus on infra, industrial growth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The "Invest Rajasthan-2022" summit, to be organised here in October this year, will target an investment of ₹10 lakh crore to flow into the State.

Memorandums of Understanding with big industrial houses are likely to be signed with emphasis on the creation of infrastructure and to expedite industrial growth.

Industries Minister Shakuntala Rawat said on Friday that the government would provide more facilities under a single roof for developing a better industrial atmosphere and creating more employment opportunities for the youth. The necessary facilities were already being extended at concessional rates.

Ms. Rawat said at a review meeting on the mega-event at Udyog Bhawan that teams of officers would visit all divisions to provide facilities related to power, water, land and infrastructure to big and small industrial units at the district level. "The creation of a positive atmosphere will ensure that no industrialist thinks of investing outside Rajasthan," she said.

Simpler clearance

The Minister pointed out that a dedicated web portal, Raj Nivesh, had been started to enable the industrialists to get all necessary permissions through a single window without any hassles.

As many as 14 senior officers were continuously monitoring the portal to ensure that all the works of industrialists were completed without delay, she said.

The "Invest Rajasthan-2022" summit, originally scheduled for January 24 to 25, was postponed to October because of the COVID-19-induced pandemic.

Russia strikes Kharkiv, eastern Donbas

Shelling kills one, injures 12; three bodies found in a pit near Bucha with hands tied behind their backs

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Ukrainian police on Saturday reported finding three bodies with their hands tied behind their backs as Russia continued shelling the east and Washington slammed Russian President Vladimir Putin's "depravity".

The bodies were found on Friday in a pit near Bucha, a town close to Kyiv that has become synonymous with allegations of Russian war crimes.

"The victims' hands were tied, cloths were covering their eyes and some were gagged. There are traces of torture on the corpses," the Kyiv region police said in a statement on Saturday.

All three men had been shot in the ear, it said.

Ukraine also reported that Russian shelling on Kharkiv, the country's second biggest city, and in the eastern Donbas region had killed one person and injured 12 more.

"The situation in the Kharkiv region is tough. But our military, our intelligence, have important tactical success," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in his latest televised address.

Ukrainian forces said they had recaptured the village of Ruska Lozova, near Kharkiv, that had been occupied by Russian troops for two months.

Long wait: An elderly woman sitting in a car at the evacuation point in Kharkiv, northeastern Ukraine, on Friday. • AFP

Hundreds of civilians were evacuated from the area.

Thousands have been killed and millions forced to flee their homes since the Russian invasion of its pro-Western neighbour began on February 24.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby on Friday briefly choked with emotion as he described the destruction in Ukraine and slammed Mr. Putin's "depravity".

Ukrainian prosecutors say they have pinpointed more than 8,000 war crimes carried out by Russian troops and are investigating 10 Russian soldiers for suspected atrocities in Bucha.

Intensified operations

Russia is now intensifying operations in the eastern Donbas region, making some territorial advances, and tightening its stranglehold on the devastated southern port city of Mariupol.

From Mariupol's badly damaged port zone, *AFP* on Friday heard heavy shelling coming from Azovstal during a media trip organised by the Russian army, with explosions only a few seconds apart.

Russia also on Friday confirmed that it carried out an air strike on Kyiv in which a journalist was killed during a visit by UN chief Antonio Guterres the previous day, the first such attack on the Ukrainian capital in nearly two weeks.

Mr. Guterres had also toured Bucha and other Kyiv suburbs where Moscow is alleged to have committed war crimes.

Meanwhile, a Russian missile destroyed the runway at Odessa airport in southern Ukraine on Saturday but there were no victims, the regional governor Maxim Marchenko said.

Russia's armed forces also said they had hit 17 Ukrainian military facilities with high-precision missiles on Saturday and also destroyed a command post and a warehouse used to store rockets and artillery.

In an online post, the Defence Ministry also said air force strikes during the day killed more than 200 Ukrainian troops and destroyed 23 armoured vehicles.

(with inputs from Reuters)

Russia urges U.S., NATO to halt Kyiv arms supply: Chinese media

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Russia's Foreign Minister urged the U.S. and NATO to stop supplying Kyiv with arms and ammunition if they are "really interested in resolving the Ukraine crisis", Chinese state media reported on Saturday.

"If the U.S. and NATO are really interested in resolving the Ukraine crisis, then first of all, they should wake up and stop supplying the Kyiv regime with arms and ammunition," Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told China's official *Xinhua* news agency during an interview.

The Kremlin had previously called delivery of arms by the West to Ukraine a threat to European security.

Kim threatens 'pre-emptive' use of nuclear weapons

He plans to continue developing his nuclear-armed military

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un warned again that the North could pre-emptively use its nuclear weapons if threatened, as he praised his top army officials for a massive military parade in the capital, Pyongyang, this week.

Mr. Kim expressed "firm will" to continue developing his nuclear-armed military so that it could "pre-emptively and thoroughly contain and frustrate all dangerous attempts and threatening moves, including ever-escalating nuclear threats from hostile forces, if necessary," the North's official *Korean Central News Agency* said on Saturday.

KCNA said Mr. Kim called his military officials to praise their work during Monday's parade, where the North showcased the biggest weapons in its nuclear arsenal, including intercontinental ballistic missiles that could potentially reach the U.S. homeland. The North also rolled out a variety of shorter-range solid-fuel missiles designed to be fired from land vehicles or submarines, which pose a growing threat to South Korea and Japan.

Show of strength: Kim Jong-Un meeting troops during a military parade in North Korea on Friday. • REUTERS

KCNA didn't say when Mr. Kim's meeting with military brass took place.

The parade marking the 90th anniversary of North Korea's army came as Mr. Kim revives nuclear brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of his country as a nuclear power and remove crippling economic sanctions.

Speaking to thousands of troops and spectators mobilized for the parade, Mr. Kim vowed to develop his nuclear forces at the "fastest possible speed" and threatened to use them if provoked. He said his nuclear weapons would "never be confined to the single mission of war deterrent" in situations where the North faces external threats to its "fundamental interests."

Mr. Kim's comments suggested he would continue a provocative run in weapons testing to dial up the pressure on Washington and Seoul. South Korea will inaugurate a new conservative government in May that could take a harder line on Pyongyang following the engagement polices of outgoing liberal President Moon Jae-in that produced few results.

Shehbaz Sharif's son takes oath as Punjab CM

Governor opposed the appointment

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Amidst last-minute drama, Hamza Shehbaz, son of Pakistan's new Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Saturday took the oath of Chief Minister of Punjab, the country's most populous province with 110 million people.

National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf administered the oath of office to 47-year-old Hamza at the Governor House here.

Hamza Shehbaz

Earlier in the morning, Governor Omar Sarfraz Cheema rejected the resignation of outgoing Chief Minister Usman Buzdar and restored his Cabinet. He also declared Mr. Hamza's election as constitutionally invalid.

Governor's protest

Governor Cheema also lodged a strong protest over the Punjab police taking over the charge of the Governor House from its security personnel to ensure a smooth oath taking ceremony of Mr. Hamza.

As the ceremony was underway, Mr. Cheema urged the Chief Justice to take notice of the police occupying the Governor House.

"The drama of a fake Chief Minister's oath has been performed in an unconstitutional manner and the Chief Justice should take note of this," he said, adding that he would also write to President Arif Alvi on this issue.

On Friday, the Lahore High Court asked the National Assembly Speaker to administer the oath of Mr. Hamza. Earlier, the court had ordered Governor Cheema to administer the oath but he refused, citing Mr. Hamza's election as unconstitutional.

Afghanistan faces power shortage in run-up to Id

Blasts cut off supply to capital Kabul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Millions of people across 11 provinces in Afghanistan faced blackouts on Saturday after two power transmission towers were blown up just west of the capital Kabul, authorities said.

The outages come ahead of the Id ul-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramzan.

Two pylons in the province of Parwan were bombed late on Friday, cutting off electricity to the capital and neighbouring provinces. Temporary repairs would be performed to partially restore power by Saturday night before a full restoration of the towers can be completed in two weeks, he added.

Two arrested

Police said two suspects have been arrested over the explosions.

Many residential buildings and businesses in Kabul booted up private generators on Saturday to ensure electricity supply ahead of Id celebrations.

Id-ul-Fitr to begin in Saudi Arabia tomorrow

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RIYADH

Saudi Arabia announced that the Muslim holiday of Id-ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy fasting month of Ramzan, will begin on Monday in the country.

"Monday... is the first day of the blessed Id-ul-Fitr for this year," with Sunday the last day of Ramzan, the official Saudi Press Agency said on Saturday, citing a royal court statement.

Fellow Gulf states the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain have also made the same announcement.

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD
INVITATION OF BIDS – TWO COVER – ITEMWAR TENDER SYSTEM (E-Submission)

IFB No.	06 / F.Retrofitting Kaveripuram / DO(TS)/ CE/ CBE/ 2022 Dt.30.04.2022
Fund	Jal Jeevan Mission 2021-2022
Eligibility	Registered Class I Contractors (Civil)
Tender Invites	The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No.30, Sivuvel Nagar, Bharathipark Road, Coimbatore - 641 043.
Sale of Bid	**05.05.2022 to 04.06.2022 upto 17.45 hours (As per Server time)**
Available website	E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
EMD Payable at	The Executive Engineer, TWAD Board, Maintenance Division, Salem.
Pre-Bid meeting	**25.05.2022 at 11.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee
Bid Submission	**06.06.2022** before **15.00** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**
Bid opening	**07.06.2022 at 15.30** Hours at the office of the Tender Invitee. Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approximate value of work (Rs. In Crore including GST)	Bid Security (Rs.In lakhs)
1.	Retrofitting of existing CWSS to Kaveripuram and 141 habitations in Kadathur union of Salem District under JJM 2021-2022" (Construction period : 12 months, Trial Run : 3 months and Free Maintenance : 6 months)	57.60	43.20

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E-Tender Notice TN IT-49
NIB code:- AVV2223A0018

E-bids are invited from eligible bidders in two parts (Techno-Commercial bid & price bid) for the work of **"Implementation of Revenue Management System in Ajmer Discom on OPEX (SAAS) Mode"** against tender no. TN-IT-49.

All the details regarding tenders are available at our website http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in. In future corrigendum/extension etc. if any, shall be published only at website http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/avvnl https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in

Superintending Engineer(IT)
AVVNL, Ajmer
Raj.Samvad/C/22/1209

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत-बीकानेर
क्रमांक- 180 दिनांक - 25.04.2022

NIB Code - PWD2223A0282
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सहायक निर्माण कार्यों हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार व उनके अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण/डाक एवं तार संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो एवं संवेदक द्वारा श्रीमान् मुख्य अभियंत सार्निधि राजस्थान, जयपुर के संशोधित आदेश क्रमांक 2063 दिनांक 16.12.2021 (**स्मार्ट पंजीयन के पुनर्निरीक्षण**) की पालना सुनिश्चित कर ली गई हो, से निम्नांकित प्रपत्र में कुल 02 **Remaining work of Construction of Government College at Khajuwala and Construction of Science & Commerce wing at Government college Kolayat** निम्नांकी कुल लागत राशि रू. 660.39 लाख है, के लिए ई-टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

निविदा फार्म डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख एवं समय	27.04.2022 प्रातः 9.30 बजे से 17.05.2022 सायं 6.00 बजे तक

निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट www.diproline.org पर एवं निविदा दस्तावेज का विवरण वेबसाईट https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जावेगी।

UBN No. - 1. PWD2223WSOB00946 2. PWD2223WSOB00948
(मुकेश गुप्ता) अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सार्वजनिक वृत-बीकानेर
DIPR/C/6147/22

MOFPI
National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management, Thanjavur (NIFTEM-T)
(an Institute of National Importance : Formerly Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology - (IIFPT))
Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India
Pudukottai Road, Thanjavur - 613 005, Tamil Nadu

Phone: +91-4362-228155 | director@iifpt.edu.in | www.niftem-t.ac.in

No: NIFTEM-T/ADMIN/PMFME/2022 Date: 01.05.2022

Implementation of PM Scheme for Formalization of Micro-Food Processing Enterprises

Posts to be recruited for Project Management Unit (PMU)

MoFPI-NIFTEM-Thanjavur invites applications for the following positions on contract basis.

Name of the Post	No. of Post	Remuneration
Consultant (DPR, Preparation of course material etc.)	1	Rs. 1,10,000/-p.m.
Young Professionals	2	Rs. 60,000/-p.m.

The online application will start from 02.05.2022 (Monday)

An online written exam followed by online interview, will be conducted for the eligible candidates. The appointment will be on contract basis with probation of 6 months. Performance of the appointed person will be evaluated every year of extension.

For further details on qualifications, upper age limit, experience, roles and responsibility of above posts, may please visit **www.niftem-t.ac.in**

Director

Sifting through: Rescue under way at a collapsed building in central China's Hunan province on Friday. • AFP

More than 20 trapped in China building collapse

Accident leaves 39 people untraceable

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

At least 23 people were trapped under a building that collapsed in central China, officials said on Saturday, as rescuers pulled apart the rubble brick by brick in an effort to reach survivors.

The building, which housed a hotel, apartments and a cinema, caved in on Friday afternoon in Changsha city, Hunan province, leaving a gaping hole in a densely built street front.

Another 39 people were uncontactable after the incident, the mayor of Changsha told reporters.

City authorities are yet to release details of casualties but said five persons were rescued from the structure overnight.

No cause for the disaster has yet been given by authorities, although speculation turned to possible overwork on the property, which officials said was eight storeys high, correcting earlier reports that it was six.

President Xi Jinping called for a search for victims "at all cost", adding he had ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the collapse.

BusinessLine
THE HINDU GROUP

Calling all champions of change.

It takes a changemaker with great vision and courage to change the status quo, question norms and fight cynics. To be compassionate and brilliant in equal measure. They are the architects of a better future. To honour individuals and organisations who have improved lives around us, *The Hindu* BusinessLine presents The Changemaker Awards 2022.
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SNAPSHOTS

Research ethics
China's powerful State Council is calling on research institutions to expand and improve their ethics training. The directive, one of several detailed in a comprehensive ethics statement, is intended to address gaps in oversight exposed when Chinese researcher, He Jiankui, shocked the world by creating the first babies with edited genomes in 2018.

Allergy-free
A company that genetically modifies pigs to create organs for humans has been sending free packages of ground pork, steaks and chops to people allergic to meat. The company removes the sugar molecule alpha-gal, which causes the human immune system to reject pig organs and causes a red-meat allergy in people.

Better crops
Plant scientists are turning to strategies adapted from the gene-editing tool CRISPR-Cas9 to improve the yield, robustness and consumer appeal of commercial cereals, fruit and vegetables. Sweeter strawberries are a nice start, but the same capabilities are being harnessed to generate crops with greater disease resistance and higher nutritional content.

Animal studies
One of the ways that COVID-19 vaccines were developed at lightning speed was by allowing human studies to begin before all standard animal tests had been concluded. Sophisticated alternatives were used to assess the safety of vaccines and the quality of each batch. This approach could produce better medical products faster and cheaper.

Booster dose may not alter disease severity trend: study

There were fewer infections among people who received a booster dose compared to those who were not boosted

R. PRASAD

A cross-sectional survey of nearly 6,000 people across age groups including those over 80 years of age carried out through email and social media platforms between February 15 and March 10, 2022 in the midst of the third wave in India that lasted from late December 2021 and lasted till March 2022 has thrown up some interesting findings.

The government had greenlighted a precaution or booster dose to everyone above 60 years with comorbidities and health-care and frontline workers from January 10, 2022. Though the booster dose was to be administered only after nine months following the second dose, there have been accounts of people who had received a booster dose less than nine months after the second dose.

The Omicron variant

According to the results posted as a preprint (which is yet to be peer-reviewed) on April 28, 2022, of the 2,383 people who received a booster shot, 716 (30%) were infected by the Omicron variant. In comparison, of the 3,505 people who had not received a booster shot, 1,577 (45%) were infected by the Omicron variant. Interestingly, infection in 77% of people during the third wave was two weeks or more after receiving the precaution dose. That would mean that infection had occurred despite there being sufficient time for the immune system to be boosted by the precaution dose.

The increased chances of infection among those who had not received a booster dose could also be because of lower usage of N95 masks. The survey found that only 50% of respondents who did not receive a booster shot used N95 masks compared with 68% in the group that took the booster shot.

"The findings of the survey once again underline the ability of the Omicron variant to cause infection when protection conferred by the booster dose is supposed to be maximum," says Dr. Rajeev Jayadevan, co-chairman, National IMA COVID Task Force, and a co-author of the preprint.

"The higher N95 mask usage too could have played a role in reducing the risk of infection among the boosted group," he added. The respondents cited several reasons for not taking a booster shot despite it being available for free.

The most important reason mentioned was that infections were commonly reported among people who had taken the precaution dose. The other stated reasons for not taking the booster shot were: 1) belief that prior infection would be protective, 2) lack of enough evidence, 3) adverse experience with prior doses of vaccine, 4) concern that mutations have altered the virus since the vaccine was originally made, 5) two doses were enough, and 6) waiting for mix-and-match booster vaccines.

Disease severity

Another important finding of the survey was regarding the disease severity among people who had taken the booster dose and those who had not. Immaterial of the booster dose status, only less than 1% of the respondents had severe COVID-19 disease and 41.5% had developed moderate disease.

Among the 716 people who had taken the booster dose and got infected, 58.5% had mild disease, 37% had moderate disease and 0.3% had severe disease. In comparison, among the 1,577 people who had not taken a booster shot and got infected, 50.8% had mild disease, 43.4% had moderate disease and 0.76% had severe disease.

"Immaterial of whether an individual had received two or three doses, the severity trend of disease was the same. The booster dose only reduced the chances of getting infected," says Dr. Jayadevan.

This finding once again underlines the effect of full vaccination with two doses in protecting against severe disease, and surprisingly very little additional benefit that the booster dose offers in preventing the progression of the disease especially in the elderly.

"According to the findings of our survey, the booster dose appears to reduce the odds of picking up an infection at least in the early period after the booster shot but does not seem to alter the trend of disease severity," says Dr. Jayadevan. This finding completely contradicts the general notion that people older than 60 years might be only partially protected by two doses and a booster dose to this group would confer greater degree of protection against disease severity.

One more interesting finding of the survey is the protective effect of the vaccine from infection both in the case of the second dose and the booster dose. "Among those who had recently received their second dose, only 27% (59/221) were positive in the third wave, which was about the same as that following the booster dose (30%). This suggests that infection was less likely among those who had recently received a vaccine dose," they write.

Protective effect

Another interesting highlight of the survey was the nearly equal protective effect of both Covishield and Covaxin against infection by the Omicron variant. The nearly equal protective effect from either vaccine was seen in people who had taken only two doses of the vaccine and in those who had also received the booster shot.

Other factors including strict adherence to mask wearing and other COVID-appropriate behaviour among people who have received either of the vaccines is not known. While the percentage of people infected is comparable between the two vaccines, the number of respondents who had received Covishield is many times more than those who had taken Covaxin.

Asymptomatic infection

As expected, 44% of respondents did not report any known history of COVID-19, which might be a reflection of asymptomatic infection in these people or not getting themselves tested. At the same time, a large number of people (15% of those with a history) reported having COVID-19 more than once.

"Among them, 454 people had it twice, 26 people thrice and 12 individuals reported up to five times," they authors write. They also add: "The reinfection percentage of 15% is likely to be an underestimate because several respondents clarified that in subsequent episodes with compatible symptoms, testing was not always done."

Booster dose does not measure up to expectations

Booster dose appears to reduce the odds of picking up an infection at least in the early period

- A cross-sectional survey of nearly **6,000 people across age groups was carried out through email and social media platforms** between February 15 and March 10, 2022
- Of the **2,383 people who received a booster shot, 716 (30%) were infected by Omicron. And 1,577 of 3,505 (54%) people** who had not received a booster shot were infected by Omicron
- **Infection in 77%** of boosted people occurred two weeks or more after receiving the precaution dose
- The infection had occurred despite there being sufficient time for the immune system to be boosted by the precaution dose
- Immaterial of the booster dose status, only less than **1%** of the respondents had severe COVID-19 disease and **41.5% had developed moderate disease**
- Whether an individual had **received two or three doses**, the severity trend of disease was the same. The booster dose only reduced the chances of getting infected
- This contradicts the general notion that a **booster dose for people older than 60 years might confer greater degree of protection against disease severity**

Equally potent: Both Covishield and Covaxin provide nearly equal protective effect against Omicron infection.

Climate change may increase risk of new infections

African, Asian nations face the greatest threat of increased virus exposure from animals to humans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Climate change will result in thousands of new viruses spread among animal species by 2070 and that is likely to increase the risk of emerging infectious diseases jumping from animals to humans, according to a new study.

This is especially true for Africa and Asia, continents that have been hotspots for deadly disease spread from humans to animals or vice versa over the last several decades, including the flu, HIV, ebola and COVID-19.

Researchers, who published their findings on April 28 in the journal *Nature*, used a model to examine how over 3,000 mammal species might migrate and share viruses over the next 50 years if the world warms by 2°C, which recent research shows is possible.

They found that cross-species virus spread will happen over 4,000 times among mammals alone. Birds and marine animals were not included in this study.

3,000 mammal species might migrate and share viruses over the next 50 years, if the world warms by 2°C. • GETTY IMAGES

Researchers said that not all viruses will spread to humans or become pandemic like the scale of the coronavirus but the number of cross-species viruses increases the risk of spread to humans. The study highlights two global crises, climate change and infectious disease spread.

Previous research has looked at how deforestation, extinction and wildlife trade lead to animal-human disease spread, but there is less research about how climate change could influence this type of disease transmission., the researchers said at a media briefing on Wednesday.

"We don't talk about climate a lot in the context of zoonosis – diseases that can spread from animals to people," said study co-author Colin Carlson, an assistant professor of biology at Georgetown University. "Our study brings together the two most pressing global crises we have," he said.

Daniel R. Brooks, a biologist at University of Nebraska State Museum and co-author of the book *The Stockholm Paradigm: Climate Change and Emerging Disease*, said the study acknowledges the threat posed by climate change in terms of increasing risk of infectious diseases.

"This particular contribution is an extremely conservative estimate for potential emerging infectious disease spread caused by climate change," said Brooks.

Aaron Bernstein, a pediatrician and interim director of The Centre for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said the study confirms long-held suspicions about the impact of global warming on infectious disease emergence.

"The study indicates that these encounters may already be happening with greater frequency and in places near where many people live," Bernstein said.

Study co-author Gregory Albery, a disease ecologist at Georgetown University, said that because climate-driven infectious disease emergence is already happening, the world should be doing more to learn about and prepare for it.

Jaron Browne, organising director of the climate justice group Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, said the study highlights climate injustices experienced by people living in African and Asian nations.

"African and Asian nations face the greatest threat of increased virus exposure, once again illustrating how those on the frontline of the crisis have very often done the least to create climate change," Browne said.

Coronavirus could easily evolve in animals

It can spawn potential variants that can jump back to humans

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The role of "animal reservoirs" in the spread of COVID-19 is still being studied but evidence of zoonosis, or the virus jumping from animals to humans, is growing and scientists are concerned that this new frontier could potentially spawn dangerous, and difficult to monitor mutants.

Some experts supported the theory that the highly mutated Omicron variant, which caused a deluge of cases globally, including India, emerged from animals, potentially rodents, rather than an immune-compromised human. "As the virus multiplies in infected hosts, it can mutate slightly, and the worry is that over time, minor genomic tweaks in hundreds or thousands, if not millions, of animals, could eventually add up to changes that make the virus more contagious or deadlier in people, or able to evade treatments and vaccines," US-based public health expert Amita Gupta told *PTI*.

Although the number of people infected with coronavirus variants evolved in animals has not been quantified yet, the evidence of zoonosis is growing. Last week, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed that four people in Michigan, U.S., were infected with a version of the coronavirus observed mostly in minks during the first year of the pandemic.

Flagging the concern, the World Health Organization (WHO) last month said the introduction of COVID to wildlife could result in the establishment of animal reservoirs of the virus.

No causal link between mobile phone usage, brain tumour

There were no statistically significant associations with talking for at least 20 minutes per week or with at least 10 years use

K.S. PARTHASARATHY

The latest U.K. Million Women Study on cellular telephone use and the risk of brain tumours published online on March 29, 2021 in *Journal of the National Institute of Cancer* confirms the accumulating evidence that cellular telephone use under usual conditions does not increase brain tumour incidence. The topic has added interest now because phone companies plan to launch 5G technologies soon.

Cellular telephone usage

During 1996-2001, U.K. Million Women Study recruited 1.3 million women born in the 15-year period between 1935-1950 into the study.

Researchers asked questions on their cellular telephone use first in median year 2001 and again in median year 2011. They followed all study participants via record linkage to National Health Services databases on deaths and cancer registrations (including nonmalignant brain tumours).

The researchers linked the independent electronic health records of each participant with his/her behaviour, in this instance, the personal usage of cellular phones.

During 14 years of follow-up of 7,76,156 women who completed the 2001 questionnaire, the study registered 3,268 brain tumours in total. Adjusted relative risks forever vs never cellular telephone use were 0.97 for all brain tumours, 0.89 for glioma, and not statistically significantly different to 1.0 for meningioma, pituitary tumours, and acoustic neuroma.

Compared with never-users, researchers did not find statistically significant associations overall or by tumour subtype, for daily cellular telephone use or for having used cellular telephones for at least 10 years.

Taking usage in 2011 as a baseline, the researchers found that there were no statistically significant associations with talking for at least 20 minutes per week or with at least 10 years use. For gliomas occurring in the temporal and parietal lobes, the parts of the brain most likely to be exposed to radio frequency electromagnetic fields from cellular telephones, relative risks were slightly below 1.0.

More safe: The researchers found that recent generations of wireless technologies emit lower output power. • GETTY IMAGES

In a press release from the Science Media Centre, London, Prof Malcolm Sperrin, Oxford University Hospitals noted that this study from Oxford is a welcome addition to the body of knowledge looking at the risk from mobile phones, and specifically in relation to certain types of tumour genesis.

Need for research

"It is a well-designed, prospective study that identifies no causal link but does recognise that there may have been false correlations arising from previous studies that are retrospective in design. There is always a need for further research work especially as phones, wireless etc become ubiquitous but this study should allay many existing concerns," he cautioned. Researchers investigated the associations of cellular telephone use and brain tumours in many studies, as the brain was the most exposed organ. When we keep cell phones very close to our head, the RF-EMF emitted by cell phones penetrate several centimetres into our head; the energy gets absorbed in the tissues in the temporal and parietal lobes of the brain. The well-established biological effect of RF-EMF on tissue is heating. When researchers developed limits for human exposure to RF-EMF for cellular telephones, the prime consideration was to prevent any substantial heating that could lead to adverse health effects.

"It is a well-designed, prospective study that identifies no causal link but does recognise that there may have been false correlations arising from previous studies that are retrospective in design
PROF MALCOLM SPERRIN

Effects of RF-EMF

There were legitimate concerns that there may be adverse biological effects from RF-EMF exposure below those limits, possibly caused through mechanisms other than heat. Researchers added a safety factor of fifty to take care of such unknown mechanisms. In any case, long-term epidemiological studies are defendable.

In an earlier analysis in 2013 after seven-year follow up, the researchers have shown that mobile phone use was not associated with increased incidence of glioma, meningioma or non-CNS cancers. The present study after a 14-year follow up, a 60% increase in numbers of brain tumours, and new analyses by tumour laterality and location within the brain, again confirmed that cellular telephone use under usual conditions does not increase brain tumour incidence.

Low output power

The researchers found that the more recent generations of wireless technologies emit substantially lower output power, so that on balance a very heavy user of today is unlikely to accumulate the same RF-EMF exposure as a modest user of the first two wireless generations.

We need not lose sleep worrying over brain tumours and cell phone use.

(K.S. Parthasarathy is a former Secretary of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board. ksparth@yahoo.co.uk)

Question Corner

Bolting spiders

Why do some spiders bolt after mating?

After males of the orb-weaving spider *Philoponella prominens* mate with a female, they quickly launch themselves away (*Current Biology*). Using a mechanism that had not been described before, the male spiders use a joint in their first pair of legs to immediately undertake a split-second catapult action, flinging themselves away from their partners at impressive speeds clocked at up to 88 centimetres per second.

The reason the males catapult themselves is simple: to avoid being eaten by the female in an act of sexual cannibalism. The few males the researchers saw that did not catapult were promptly captured, killed, and consumed by their female partners. When the researchers prevented males from catapulting, they met the same fate, says a *Cell Press* release.

Shichang Zhang of Hubei University in Wuhan and colleagues made this discovery while studying sexual selection in this spider, which lives in communal groups of up to 300 individuals in a web complex with many individual webs within it. Of 155 successful matings, they report that 152 ended with the male catapulting. All those catapulting males survived their sexual encounters.

The three males that didn't catapult were killed. Another 30 prevented by the researchers from catapulting also got killed by the female.

"Females may use this behaviour to judge the quality of a male during mating," he adds. "If a male could not perform catapulting, then kill it, and if a male could perform it multiple times, then accept its sperm," Zhang says.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

• PTI

Intense heat

What is driving up temperatures beyond normal in north, west, central and east India?

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: India is in the throes of an unusually long series of heatwaves that began in the end of March and scorched north India for most of April. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said April was the hottest in northwest India in 122 years. It has also been an unusually hot April – with temperatures touching above 40°C – in large parts of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

How widespread is the heatwave?

■ Records from IMD suggest that the average maximum temperature till April 27 was 35.7°C, the highest in five years for this month. In Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat, the average maximum temperature in April 2022 so far has been the highest since 1951; while it has been the second highest in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. In most of these States, the temperature has been consistently above 42°C and around 5-6 degrees above normal for this time of the year.

Latest IMD forecasts say heat wave conditions prevail in many parts of Punjab, northwest Rajasthan and Vidarbha, Maharashtra. It's also unusually hot in parts of Himachal Pradesh, west Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha. Maximum temperatures were 43-46 degree Celsius over most parts of Rajasthan, Vidarbha, Madhya Pradesh and east Uttar Pradesh, in many parts of Gujarat and interior Odisha; in some parts of central Maharashtra and in isolated pockets of Bihar, Jharkhand and interior Gangetic West Bengal. Temperatures were over 40-43 degree Celsius in most parts of Haryana-Delhi, Punjab and in isolated pockets of west Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Marathwada, Telangana and Rayalaseema. These scorching conditions are expected to continue until the middle of next week until, the agency says, a western disturbance from West Asia brings rain to parts of north and north-western India. While it is not unusual for the latter half of April to be dry and hot in most of north, west and central India, this year is unusual in that this follows the warmest March in 121 years with the maximum temperature across the country nearly 1.86°C above normal.

Usually, periods of high temperature are punctuated by periodic episodes of rain but this was largely absent during March and April. Cooler than normal conditions in the Pacific Ocean failed to aid rainfall in north India

How are heatwaves defined?

■ A heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature is over 40°C and at least 4.5 notches above normal. A severe heatwave is declared if the departure from normal temperature is more than 6.4 degrees, according to the IMD. Based on absolute recorded temperatures, a heatwave is declared when an area logs a maximum temperature of 45°C. A severe heatwave is declared if the maximum temperature crosses 47 degrees.

Is climate change responsible?

■ The heat-trapping consequences of global warming imply that climate extremes such as heatwaves are expected to rise in frequency. Instances of extreme rainfall, as well as longer rainless spells are expected, according to assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The main reason for the scorching heat in the northern parts of the country is lack of rainfall. Usually, periods of high temperature are punctuated by periodic episodes of rain but this was largely absent during March and April. Ironically, April also saw maximum instances of extreme rainfall since 2018 though it was concentrated in the south and north-eastern India. The rain-bearing western disturbances originate because of temperature gradients between the northernmost parts of the globe and the latitudes passing through West Asia. Weaker gradients mean weaker rains. This March and April, cooler than normal conditions in the Pacific Ocean failed to aid rainfall in north India.

What impact do heatwaves have over India?

■ Research through the years shows that the number of heatwave days in India is increasing every decade. From 413 in 1981-90 to 575 in 2001-10 and 600 in 2011-20, the number of days that see extremely hot days is persistently increasing at 103 weather stations. Some parts along eastern India, such as Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha, also register higher humidity along with high temperatures, leading to the rise in a condition called 'wet bulb' temperature, that at its mildest can cause extreme discomfort and at its worst cause dehydration and death. Heatwaves have killed more than 17,000 people in 50 years in India, according to a research study by IMD scientists. However, the intensity and length of heatwaves don't have a direct connection to India's monsoon that sets in over Kerala in June.

What is being done to buffer against high temperatures?

■ Over the years, forecast systems have improved that allow heatwave warnings to be disseminated via electronic channels and phones instantaneously. Many State governments across the country have declared school holidays; some have highlighted the dangers of working outdoors during the day. Many State governments award monetary compensation for deaths linked to heatwaves.

Why are electric vehicles catching fire?

Is the battery causing the problem? What safety measures need to be followed to prevent explosions?

VENKAT SRINIVASAN

The story so far: The Union government has constituted an expert panel to probe the recent series of battery explosions in electric vehicles (EVs). Manufacturers such as Okinawa and Pure EV have recalled some batches of electric scooters after their vehicles caught fire. Last Wednesday, an 80-year-old man died at his home in Telangana's Nizamabad district after the battery of an electric scooter exploded while being charged. After the enquiry, the Ministry of Road Transport intends to issue guidelines for EVs, including tests for compliance with safety norms.

Why is the world poised to transition to electric vehicles?

■ The growing concern over climate change has led to global efforts to electrify the transportation sector. In parallel, cost of Li-ion (Lithium-ion) battery technology has decreased by a staggering order of magnitude in the past decade. The convergence of these two factors has resulted in a unique time in our history where we are at the cusp of a dramatic transition in the transportation sector, with electric vehicles poised to replace petrol vehicles.

The world has taken note of this moment with governments providing incentives to usher in the transition and private industry ramping up plans for capturing the market. There is a worldwide race emerging, with vehicle companies, battery manufacturers, and material suppliers vying with each other for market share. However, Li-ion batteries are complex devices requiring a level of sophistication that can takes years to perfect. Hurrying the development of this complex technology without careful safeguards can lead to increasing safety incidents, as evidenced recently on Indian roads.

What goes into a Li-ion battery?

■ Every Li-ion battery consists of three active components: the anode, typically graphite; the cathode, typically based on a nickel, cobalt, and manganese-based oxide; and an electrolyte, typically a salt of lithium in an inorganic solvent. Battery manufacturing is a complex operation involving forming sheets of the anode and cathode and assembling them into a sandwich structure held apart by a thin separator.

Separators, about 15 microns in thickness – about a fifth of the thickness of the human hair – perform the critical function of preventing the anode and cathode from shorting. Accidental shorting of the electrodes is a known cause of fires in Li-ion cells. It is important that the various layers are assembled with high precision with tight tolerances maintained throughout the manufacturing process. Safety features, such as thermal switches that turn off if the battery overheats, are added as the sandwich is packaged into a battery cell.

Battery cells are assembled into modules and then further assembled into packs. Li-ion batteries require tight control on the state of charge and the temperature of operation to enhance safety and increase usable life, achieved by adding multiple sensors. Packs are designed to ensure uniform temperature profile with minimal thermal variation during operation. Ensuring robust detection, coupled with battery management systems that interpret the data and change operation based on changes to the batteries state, remains critically important in enhancing battery performance.

Battery packs are integrated into the vehicle in unique formfactors depending on the design of the vehicle. The location of the battery should protect it from external penetration, ensure passenger safety while talking into consideration the overall weight distribution. Close interaction between vehicle manufacturers and battery manufacturers is essential so that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

There are multiple trade-offs in this complex ecosystem: engineering higher safety often results in higher costs and lower driving range. In this competitive landscape where companies are vying for market share, a race to the bottom can compromise safety.

What causes battery fires?

■ While Li-ion batteries are complex, over the last three decades numerous companies have perfected the art of manufacturing high-quality cells and integrating them into vehicles with minimal safety concerns. The energy density of petrol is five hundred times that of a typical Li-ion battery, therefore safety should be manageable if robust controls are in place. However, batteries do store energy in a small package and if the energy is released in an uncontrolled fashion, the thermal event can be significant.

Battery fires, like other fires, occur due to the convergence of three parts of the "fire triangle": heat, oxygen, and fuel. If an adverse event such as a short circuit occurs in the battery, the internal temperature can raise as the anode and cathode release their energy through the short. This, in turn, can lead to a series of reactions from the battery materials, especially the cathode, that release heat in an uncontrolled manner, along with oxygen. Such events also rupture the sealed battery further exposing the components to outside air and the second part of the fire triangle, namely, oxygen. The final component of the triangle is the liquid electrolyte, which is flammable and serves as a fuel. The combination leads to a catastrophic failure of the battery resulting in smoke, heat, and fire, released instantaneously and explosively.

The trigger for such events can be a result of internal shorts (like a manufacturing defect that results in sharp objects penetrating the separator), external events (an accident leading to puncture of the cell and shorting of the electrodes), overcharging the battery which leads to heat releasing reactions on the cathode (by a faulty battery management system that does not shut down charging despite the battery achieving its designed charge state), or bad thermal design at the module and pack level (by not allowing the battery internal heat to be released). Any of these triggers may cascade into a significant safety incident. (see graphic).

Are battery fires inevitable?

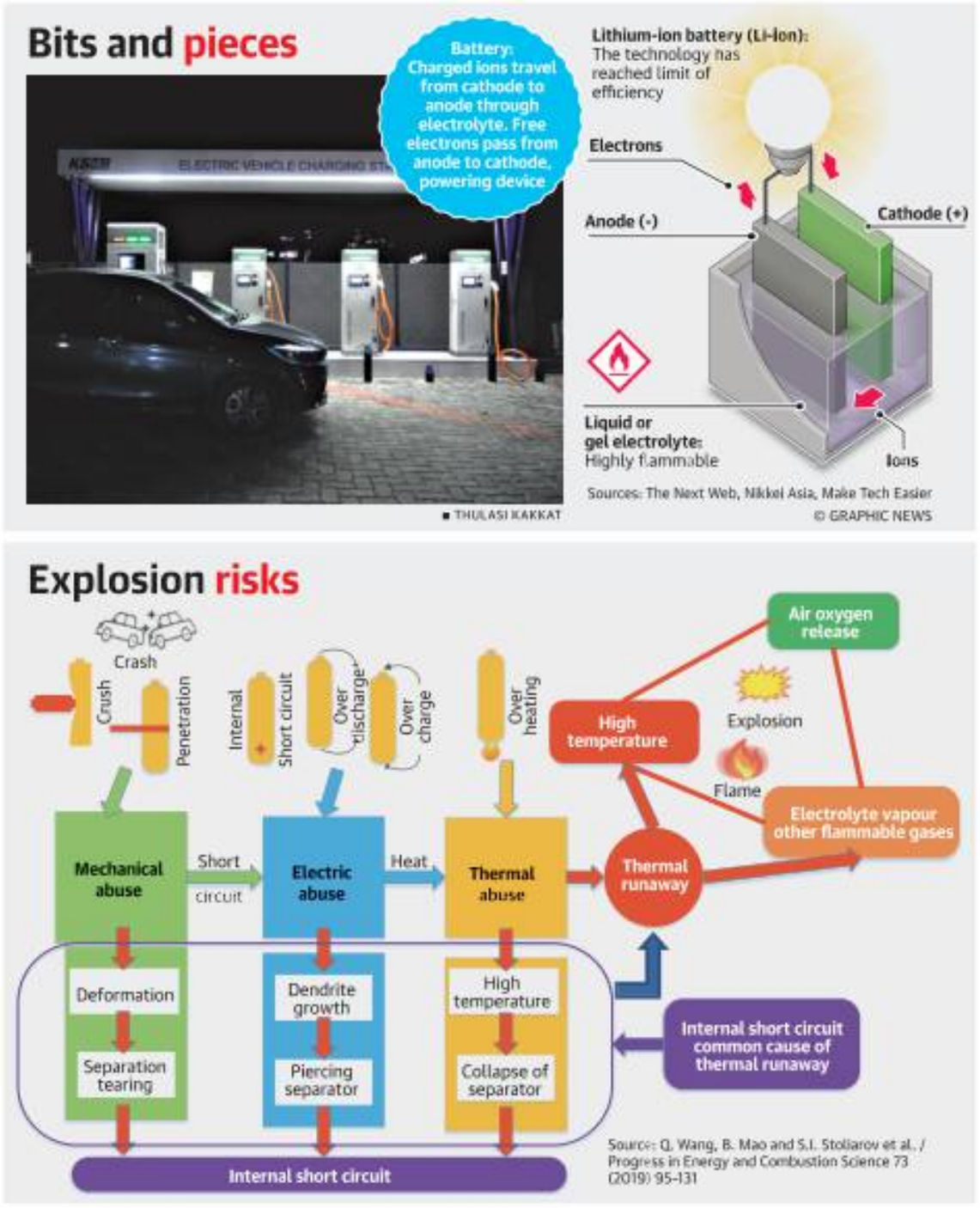
■ Over the past three decades, Li-ion batteries have proved to be extremely safe, with the industry increasing controls as safety incidents have surfaced. Safety is a must and is an important consideration that battery and vehicle manufacturers can design for at multiple levels from the choice of battery material to designs at the cell, pack, and vehicle level.

Preventing fires requires breaking the fire triangle. Battery cathodes are a leading cause of the heat release. Some cathodes, such as ones with lower nickel content or moving to iron phosphate, can increase safety. Tightly controlled manufacturing will prevent accidental shorts in the cells, eliminating a leading cause of fires. Many companies now add a ceramic layer on the separator to mechanically prevent shorts. Sensing the state of the battery and integrating this data into sophisticated battery management systems is an important aspect of design. Protecting the cell with robust thermal management is critical, especially in India where ambient temperatures are high. Finally, battery packs need to be protected from external penetration. Any large-scale manufacturing process inevitably has a certain percentage of defects; therefore, such steps are needed to minimise the number of adverse events.

Long-term changes are also under way. Safety remains a concern for Li-ion manufacturers worldwide especially as cell sizes become larger for applications such as solar-connected storage. Companies are developing internal "switches" that turn off parts of the battery that undergo thermal events to stop them at their inception. Research is now underway to replace the flammable liquid electrolyte with a solid electrolyte to eliminate one part of the fire triangle. A similar thread of research is the development of nonflammable liquid electrolytes. All these changes promise to remove the threat of battery fires as the roll out of mass electrification takes place.

Engineering safety requires commitment from all parts of the battery supply chain and tight integration between vehicle companies and battery companies. Further, regulators play an important role, providing the testing and certification needed to ensure that technology innovations perform at the level that is promised. Li-ion batteries are not forgiving of shoddy engineering and approaches that rely on cutting corners. Companies with tightly controlled manufacturing with years of experience can maintain the number of adverse safety incidents to a minimum. Such batteries maybe more expensive, but safety should not be "just another" metric. Rather, ensuring safety should be the priority for manufacturers.

The writer is Director of the Argonne Collaborative Center for Energy Storage Science at Argonne National Laboratory, Illinois



States vs Centre: who increased fuel tax rate?

What is the stand of States ruled by BJP rivals on reduction of value-added tax to bring down petrol prices?

VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN

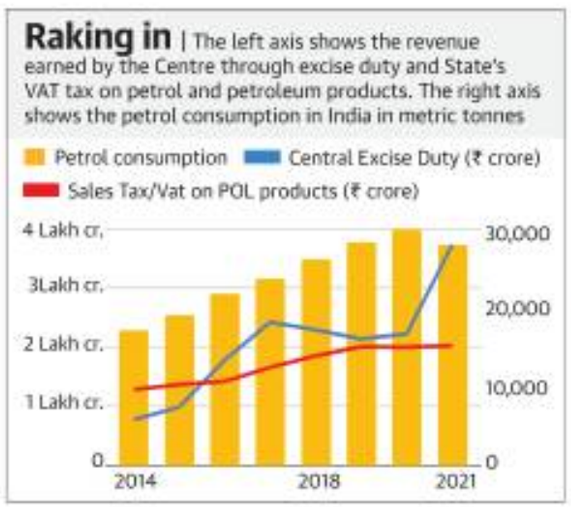
The story so far: Petrol is retailing at more than ₹100 a litre across India. The primary reason for the increase in pump prices over the past few years is the gradual rise in the Union government's excise duty component. The excise duty was cut by ₹5 per litre last November. While some States followed with a cut in value-added tax (VAT), many others did not. On Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said fuel prices were too high in some non-BJP-ruled States as they did not "pass the benefits of the Centre's excise duty cut" to consumers. He said States such as Maharashtra, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Jharkhand did not reduce VAT last November while Karnataka and Gujarat did so.

By how much has the Central tax on fuel increased?

■ In October 2018, the Central excise duty on petrol amounted to ₹17.98 per litre. In February 2022, it increased to ₹27.9 per litre of petrol. In this period, the Centre's tax component expanded by about ₹10 per litre of petrol.

By how much has the tax levied by States risen?

■ As on February 2019, Kerala charged 30.08% as sales tax along with ₹1 a litre additional sales tax, plus 1% cess. Telangana charged 35.2%. West Bengal charged 25% or ₹13.12 per litre whichever was higher, with minor additional components. None of the three States had made any increases to the rates till April 2022. Tamil Nadu charged 34% VAT on petrol as on February 2019. In 2022, the tax structure has changed to 13% VAT plus ₹11.52 a litre.



In the period under review, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra (Mumbai)'s tax on petrol has risen by ₹3 a litre, whereas Karnataka's sales tax rate declined from 32% to 25.92%, and Gujarat's from 17% to 13.7%. In the non-BJP-ruled States, in this period, tax rates increased between nil and ₹3 per litre, whereas in the BJP-ruled States, tax rates declined.

How can the impact of States' taxes and the Centre's excise duties on petrol be measured?

■ One way to do this would be to compare the Centre's excise duty collections on crude oil and petroleum products, and the States' VAT collections on petroleum products, as a percentage of GDP. Between FY15 and FY21, the Centre's tax collections have increased from 0.79% of GDP to 1.88% of GDP. In the same period, States' tax collections have marginally declined from 1.1% of GDP to 1.02% of GDP. Another measure would be to compare the Centre's tax share in the retail price of petrol with State's tax share. For instance, in Delhi, the Centre's tax share currently forms 26.4% of the retail price. In May 2014 it was around 14%. The State's tax share currently forms 16.25% of the retail price, compared with 17% in May 2014. So, both in terms of percentage of GDP and retail prices, the States' tax collections have remained the same or even slightly declined, whereas the Centre's tax collections have climbed sharply.

ELON MUSK

The man who bought the virtual 'town square'

The world's richest person, who describes himself as a 'free speech absolutist', wants to change the business and operations of Twitter

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

SRIRAM SRINIVASAN

There is little that's unclear about Elon Musk's plans for Twitter. Even as he was proposing to buy the world's most influential social media platform, in mid-April, the world's richest man spelt out the logic behind his decision. In a TED interview with Chris Anderson just hours after his offer became public, he said it is important to have an inclusive arena for free speech. He subsequently spoke about how he planned to make it so.

Now, with ownership all set to come to his hand via a $44-billion deal, the big question his followers and critics alike have is not whether Twitter will change but whether Mr. Musk can manage the complexity of running a politically-sensitive social media platform alongside his many other businesses.

Since launching software company Zip2 in 1995, the South Africa-born, U.S. entrepreneur has managed to successfully spot promising business opportunities in a slew of sectors. After Zip2 was bought by Compaq, he saw a future in an online financial services venture, which eventually merged with PayPal, only for the new company to be bought by eBay. The riches from these exits gave Mr. Musk an opportunity to invest in new areas such as electric vehicles, space travel, battery energy storage and even tunnel boring. The result has been Tesla, SpaceX, Tesla Energy, and so on– representing sectors where he has had to necessarily work closely with the government and its agencies. Tesla recently became one of only six U.S. companies to touch a market capitalisation of $1 trillion.

Amid all this business scale-up, Mr. Musk, 50, has found time for tweeting. On more than one occasion in recent years, he has called Twitter fun. In an interview with Recode's Kara Swisher in 2018, he said he looked at Twitter "as a way to learn things, kinda stay in touch with what's happening. It feels like dipping into the flow of consciousness of society". It was clear in the run-up to the bid, though, that he had problems with the way the platform was run. After winning the bid, Mr. Musk reiterated his point on free speech, tweeting, "I hope that even my worst critics remain on Twitter, because that is what free speech means."

In Focus

- After selling Zip2, the software company he launched in 1995, to Compaq, Musk moved to online financial services
- Musk sold PayPal to eBay before venturing into other areas, including electric vehicles and space travel
- The result of Musk's investment outings were Tesla, SpaceX, Tesla Energy and now Twitter

Neutral platform

It is amply clear that Mr. Musk wants Twitter to be perceived as neutral. Another of his tweets said, "For Twitter to deserve public trust, it must be politically neutral, which effectively means upsetting the far right and the far left equally." In the TED interview, Mr. Musk agreed with the description of himself as a "free speech absolutist". He believes that Twitter, like any other platform, is bound by the laws of the country where it operates. And, therefore, there will be limitations for free speech. But, "going beyond the legal obligations and having it be unclear who's making what changes..., having tweets be mysteriously promoted or demoted with no insight into what's going on, having a black-box algorithm, I think can be quite dangerous," he said.

Musk believes the Twitter code should be available on platforms such as GIthub, so that people can propose changes to it in the same way that they do for open-source software

Governments across the world now have specific rules under whose framework social media companies operate. This has evolved over the last decade or so, especially after Twitter gained in prominence as a tool that helps anti-government protesters to organise themselves. Such movements, in countries such as Iran and Egypt, came to be known as 'Twitter Revolutions'. In recent years, its fight against disinformation and hate speech has forced it to frame new rules and policies of flagging such content or de-platforming whom it considers as offenders.

Mr. Musk, who said he doesn't care about the economics of this at all, has proposed a few changes. He believes the Twitter code should be available, say, on a platform such as GIthub, so that people can propose changes in the same way that they do for open-source software such as Linux or the Signal messaging code. There's a problem with this idea, though, according to an *MIT Technology Review* article. It says, "Musk might have a strong aversion to authority, but his desire for algorithmic transparency happens to chime with the wishes of politicians around the world. The idea has been a cornerstone of multiple governments' attempts to fight back against Big Tech in recent years." The new owner is also in favour of letting "the speech exist" if in doubt. "I am not saying I have all the answers here," he told Mr. Anderson. But he has clear preferences – "timeouts are better than permanent bans". The ultimate "good sign" of a neutral platform is "someone you don't like allowed to say something you don't like." Mr. Musk's top priority is dealing with the bot armies on Twitter.

The complexity of running a business isn't new for him. Nor is the risk of failure. "Who starts a car company and a rocket company expecting them to succeed? Certainly not me," said Mr. Musk in a recent interview with Mathias Dopfner, Axel Springer's CEO. He was referring to the many close shaves his businesses had.

He said, "After the third failure of SpaceX in 2008, I knew that if the fourth launch failed, SpaceX would be dead. We had no money for the fifth launch. Tesla's been on the verge of bankruptcy many times. We even closed on the last day of the financing round in 2008. Remember, back then General Motors and Chrysler had gone bankrupt and Ford was on the brink of it. So, imagine trying to raise money for an electric car start-up while General Motors was going bankrupt. People were very angry that I even asked." But he managed to squeak through.

New changes

But Twitter could bring in new challenges, critics feel. Jeff Bezos, Amazon.com founder, and No. 2 in the richest men list behind Mr. Musk, tweeted, "Did the Chinese government just gain a bit of leverage over the town square?" The 'town square' reference was to Twitter itself, something that Mr. Musk himself used. The reference to the Chinese government is because of multiple reasons. China banned Twitter over a decade ago. It is the No. 2 for Tesla and it is the main battery supply source for the company. Mr. Bezos himself answered this, tweeting, "My own answer to this question is probably not. The more likely outcome in this regard is complexity in China for Tesla, rather than censorship at Twitter." And then, he concluded saying, "But we'll see. Musk is extremely good at navigating this kind of complexity."

Reuters columnist Pete Sweeney wrote, "Elon Musk is buying Twitter in the name of free speech. Beijing will lean on him to un-ban its troll army, then push him to comply with its extra-territorial sedition law. Tesla's key Shanghai outfit risks being a pawn in the fight."

Twitter has a challenging transition in its hand, and so does Mr. Musk.

BILAWAL BHUTTO ZARDARI

His mother's son

The PPP leader has become the youngest Foreign Minister of Pakistan

SUHASINI HAIDAR

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

For any politician, their first press conference is a daunting task. For Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, then a 19-year-old whose mother had been assassinated just three days before, his first press conference to the entire national and international press at the Bhutto home in Pakistan's Naudero in December 2007 would have been much more so. Yet, the world saw the shy and bespectacled young man, who was still at college, come out to face the press, armed only with a big photograph of his mother, former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in his lap. When asked if the political career carved out for him that day, when he was declared the Chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was something his mother would have wanted, Mr. Bhutto said her motto was "democracy is the best revenge", a comment that seemed brave in the face of tragedy, but hard to follow through on for one so young.

Yet, a decade and a half later, Mr. Bhutto, whose Instagram account notes that he was the "youngest chairman of a political party at 19, youngest leader of a parliamentary party at 29 and youngest chair of the parliamentary committee on human rights at 30", is now also Pakistan's youngest Foreign Minister at the age of 33. While there is no question his family name and his party's coalition agreement with the new Prime Minister, Shehbaz Sharif, have catapulted him there, these can only help him marginally as he prepares to handle one of the Pakistani Cabinet's most difficult posts.

Born in September 1988, Mr. Bhutto was three months old when his mother was sworn in as PM for the first of two terms (1988-90 and 1993-96) and his infancy was spent in and out of the Prime Minister's home. A decade later, after his mother went into political exile following General Musharraf's military coup, Mr. Bhutto and his two sisters, Bakhtawar and Aseefa, were educated abroad, between Dubai and London.

After he was anointed his mother's successor as the chief of the PPP in 2007, Mr. Bhutto returned to the U.K. to complete his college degree at Oxford University, while his father Asif Ali Zardari became President of Pakistan (2008-13).

In 2018, Mr. Bhutto stood for election from three parliamentary seats, and won only one, and repairing his party's sagging strength outside of its traditional Sindh province bastion will be one of his biggest tasks. He has been mocked for his inexperience, as well as for his elitist upbringing and a stilted Urdu accent.

"His charm is in the way he responds with laughter and humour," says a close associate of the Bhuttos. Earlier this year, when PM Imran Khan derided him for a gaffe in Urdu, Mr. Bhutto responded with a twitter video reel of Mr. Khan's own gaffes, strung together with dialogues from Bollywood.

Symbolism of the post

While many have wondered whether the pleasant mannered but political neophyte has taken on too senior a Cabinet portfolio for his age and experience, according to the associate, it is the symbolism that will matter most to him. His grandfather Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto became Pakistan's Foreign Minister twice, first at the age of 35, before he became Prime Minister. Benazir Bhutto became Prime Minister with the Finance Portfolio at 35. Both, however, were killed brutally in their early 50s. In an interview to this writer in 2014, Bilawal Bhutto defended himself against the charge of being a dynast, saying, "It's not like my mother reached the prime of her life for or even a ripe old age and retired, and then I took over or that she took over from her father that way. We were forced into these positions due to the horrific assassinations."

Having taken over the Foreign Minister's post, Mr. Bhutto will have to test his mettle at the job in the full glare of international arc-lights. While his first official visit abroad was to accompany PM Sharif to Saudi Arabia, it is his handling of relations with the U.S. administration, which the Bhuttos have traditionally been closer to, which will be watched most closely for any turnaround. Mr. Bhutto has taken a fiery position on Jammu and Kashmir at political rallies, vowing to "fight for a thousand years for Kashmir".

It remains to be seen whether New Delhi, which has yet to send Mr. Bhutto a formal letter of congratulations, will receive any outreach from the new Foreign Minister.

JIGNESH MEVANI

The Dalit Young Turk

The activist-turned-politician faces the ire of BJP over a tweet criticising the PM

MAHESH LANGA

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

The 41-year-old Jignesh Mevani dons many hats: prominent Dalit activist, outspoken lawmaker, former journalist and lawyer, to just name a few. Often in the headlines, Mr. Mevani was recently arrested by the Assam Police that came all the way from Kokrajhar to Palampur in north Gujarat over a tweet he posted criticising Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

As soon as he was granted bail, he was rearrested in a case of misbehaving with a policewoman. The local court in Assam, while granting him bail in the second case, has come down heavily on the police for foisting the false case against him. At the time of his arrest from Gujarat, Mr. Mevani said: "I will fight this. I will not relent or bow down."

That's Mr. Mevani for beginners – a relentless fighter. In 2016, he hogged headlines when he spearheaded a movement in support of the rights of the Scheduled Castes in Gujarat following the public torture and flogging of Dalits in Una by self-proclaimed cow vigilantes for allegedly skinning a dead cow in the Saurashtra region.

As a founder member of the Una Dalit Atyachar Ladat Samiti (Committee to fight atrocities against Una Dalits) and the Rashtriya Dalit Adhikar Manch, Mr. Mevani took out a Dalit Asmita Yatra from Ahmedabad to Una, in which more than 15,000 people participated. Taking a pledge to give up their traditional caste-based occupation of removing cow carcasses, thousands of Dalits from across the State came together and demanded justice for the Una victims.

The 370-km protest march culminated on August 15, 2016, in a massive convention in Una where Mr. Mevani gave a fiery speech, asking the community members to unite and fight for their rights, a path shown by Dr. Ambedkar.

Land for Dalits

During the campaign, he demanded that every landless Dalit in the State be given five acres of land, which, according to him, is rightfully theirs. Since 2015, knocking on the door of courts to protesting on the streets in the name of 'rasta roko' and 'rail roko', Mr. Mevani has pursued cases of Dalits who have been allotted land on paper but not given physical possession of the same.

To continue his activism, Mr. Mevani quit his job as a journalist in a weekly and joined hands with the Jan Sangharsh Manch founded by the late Mukul Sinha. Sinha, a human rights activist and lawyer, asked him to get a law degree to be better equipped to fight for the rights of marginalised sections. In Gujarat, a State with around 7% Dalit population, Mr. Mevani has emerged as the leader of the Ambedkarite movement.

The success of Una protest march catapulted him onto the national stage, and he soon emerged as a powerful voice of Dalits and other marginalised communities. In 2017, he announced that he would contest the Assembly elections from Vadgam in north Gujarat, which is reserved for the SCs, as an Independent candidate.

"Friends, I m contesting from Vadgam-11 seat of Banaskantha district of Gujarat as an Independent candidate. We shall fight, we shall win," he tweeted on November 27, 2017 announcing his entry into electoral politics. To pave the way for his victory, the Opposition Congress decided to shift its sitting MLA from Vadgam, which has a sizeable population of Dalits and minorities, besides OBCs. Mr. Mevani defeated the BJP's Vijay Chakravarti by 19,696 votes.

Born to a middle-class family with both parents working in clerical jobs in government, he grew up in the Dalit-populated Meghaninagar area of Ahmedabad and studied in Gujarati-medium schools. He later joined HK Arts college in Ahmedabad, where he got attracted to drama and theatre, thanks to Saumya Joshi, a poet and playwright, who was a faculty member in the college.

In 2021, he joined the Congress. Before joining the Congress, he had said he had respect for its ideology and joining the party "will give more strength in fighting against the BJP in the coming Assembly election and the 2024 Lok Sabha election." Before the Una agitation, Mr. Mevani had flirted with the Aam Aadmi Party. He was a spokesman of the party in Gujarat for a short stint. But irrespective of his political party affiliation, Mr. Mevani has been consistent on two fronts – his opposition to the BJP and his activism for the rights of the Dalits and other marginalised communities.

Vedanta may borrow $3 bn for chips unit

REUTERS
BENGALURU

Vedanta is in talks with banks to raise debt of $2.5 billion-$3 billion to bolster its semiconductor and display manufacturing plans as it races to become the country's first chipmaker, a senior company official told Reuters on Saturday.

Vedanta is seeking incentives from the central government and is also in talks with several States. After getting subsidies, and once its definitive agreements are in place, the company plans to raise bank debt of as much as $3 billion.

"We have financial banking relationships across India. We are talking to them," said Akarsh Hebbar, Vedanta's Global Managing Director of Display and Semiconductor Business.

Realisations under IBC better bet than liquidation: RBI's Rao

"Comparing realisation with claims not true measure of Code's effectiveness'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Comparing outstanding loan amounts with the value realised may not be a 'reasonable indicator' to assess the bankruptcy law's effectiveness, said Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao, while seeking to address concerns over deep haircuts that banks had taken in some of the insolvency resolutions plans.

Admitting that there had been concerns, Mr. Rao said one needed to understand that the value of the asset may have already deteriorated by the time it comes up at the courts, and added that one should compare the realisations with liquidation, which is the best possible alternative for lenders.

Cause for worry: Asset sale to new owners at sums far lower than admitted claims had raised concerns. •REUTERS

"We miss the fact that in a public auction-based resolution model, the extent of haircut represents a discount the market demands in continuing to invest in an insolvent borrower. Since significant value deterioration may have happened to the assets of the insolvent borrower, comparison with the outstanding amount may not be a reasonable indicator to evaluate the effectiveness of the resolution.

"Resolution values must be compared with the next best alternative for the creditors, which... is liquidation," Mr. Rao said, addressing an event at IIM-Ahmedabad.

Financial creditors have been able to realise 166% in comparison to the liquidation value of the debtors, indicating that creditors have been better off than the next logical outcome, he added.

Some resolutions such as Videocon's, where the new owner got the asset for only ₹2,900 crore against admitted claims of ₹46,000 crore, had led to concerns.

Mr. Rao said the Videocon resolution took place via discretionary powers of the adjudicating authority rather than through a feature of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Need system to study IBC impact: Verma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Amid concerns in certain quarters that the insolvency law had led to more liquidations than resolutions of stressed assets, Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma on Saturday pitched for having a framework to study the impact of the legislation.

Emphasising that the government and regulator IBBI had been constantly making course corrections to address any gaps in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), he also said the law had brought in a cultural shift in the dynamics between lenders and borrowers as well as promoters and creditors.

The IBC provides for a time-bound and market-linked resolution of stressed assets.

East West mulls foray into project logistics

Firm may handle hazardous shipments

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

East West Holdings Ltd., through its 100% subsidiary East West Freight Carriers Ltd. (EWFCL), is planning to offer turnkey project-based logistics services to Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and large enterprises that are keen on setting up manufacturing units without any delay in project execution.

Typically, large turnkey projects require specialised integrated service capabilities with the ability to offset potential and foreseeable on-ground challenges to provide a seamless execution to the customer.

The BSE-listed company, which services the B2B segment, said it had leveraged the economic contraction during the COVID-19 phase to realign its focus and cross-geography reach to create and upscale for such deliveries.

Speaking with reference to the MSME sector, Vivek Anand Oberoi, Chief Strategy Adviser, East West Holdings Ltd., said, "The COVID-19 experience has shown us that there needs to be creation of specific verticals focused on handling different specialised requirements even in the B2B segment."

Govt. impetus

"These are augmented by factors such as the impetus being given by the government to the manufacturing sector that is also responsible for the growth of the Indian logistics and supply chain industry," Mr. Oberoi said.

"This takes the Indian logistics sector staring at an exponential growth of 20-30% for businesses that are future ready in logistics," the actor-turned-business-man and entrepreneur said.

Alliance in West Asia can add ₹50 crore to the topline, says Mr. oberoi.

He added that the organisation had the potential to add ₹50 crore to its topline in two years on the back of its alliance in West Asia.

The company is also planning to foray into logistics for dangerous and hazardous materials.

Special focus

"Given the COVID-19 learnings, there has been a special focus on creating dedicated capabilities in the supply chain and logistics of dangerous and hazardous materials. This vertical requires specialised teams with know-how in handling, transportation, and management of dangerous and hazardous materials," he added.

"During COVID-19, as a naturalised response to business needs, we have acquired capabilities and demonstrated them with successful project deliveries," Mr. Oberoi said.

The company is working towards identifying and starting more specialised industry verticals which are expected to be announced soon.

The logistics sector in India is estimated to be a $200-billion industry with a contribution of more than 14% to India's gross domestic product.

NMDC keeps iron ore prices unchanged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

India's largest iron ore producer NMDC has decided to keep prices unchanged.

In a shift from back-to-back increases, which would come as relief to customers, the mining major said effective April 30, a tonne of lump ore would cost ₹6,100, while the same quantity of fines will come for ₹5,160.

The prices are a continuation of what the company had set from April 1, following an increase of ₹100 a tonne for lump ore and ₹200 for fines.

The upward revision earlier this month was the fourth such since January and came amid robust domestic demand.

Yes Bank turns FY22 profit of ₹1,066 crore

GNPA improves to 13.9% from 15.4%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Yes Bank on Saturday said it returned to full-year profitability in the fiscal ended March 2022, registering a profit of ₹1,066 crore during the year.

The private sector lender had posted a net loss of ₹3,462 crore in the previous year and a loss of ₹22,715 crore in FY20.

FY22's is the first full-year profit since FY19, Yes Bank said in a regulatory filing. In the quarter ended March 2022, the bank registered a net profit of ₹367 crore. It had recorded a net loss of ₹3,788 crore a year earlier.

Total income during January-March increased to ₹5,829.22 crore from ₹4,678.59 crore a year earlier.

The full-year total income, however, slipped to ₹22,285.98 crore in FY22 from ₹23,053.53 crore in fiscal year FY21.

The bank's gross non-performing assets (GNPA) improved to 13.9% of gross advances from 15.4% a year earlier.

'Shriram Transport, Shriram City to merge by December'

Merger to result in branch rationalisation: Chakravarti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The proposed merger of two non-banking financial companies in the Shriram Group – Shriram City Union Finance Ltd. (Shriram City) with Shriram Transport Finance Co. Ltd. (STFC) – is expected to be completed by December, a top company official said.

"The merger process with STFC, the market leader in used truck finance, is progressing as per plans and is expected to be completed by December '22, which will give us a competitive edge," said Y.S. Chakravarti, MD and CEO, Shriram City.

According to him, the merger process is in its last leg and approvals were awaited from NCLT and shareholders. The merged entity will be known as Shriram Finance Ltd.

Y.S. Chakravarti

As a prelude to the merger process, Shriram City has initiated a pilot project in 40 branches to train its employees to cross sell STFC products. The merger would result in the rationalisation of about 400 branches

Profit rises 12%

On Saturday, Shriram City announced that its consolidated net profit for the fourth quarter ended March rose 12% to ₹326 crore. Disbursement grew 14% to ₹8,645 crore and assets under management climbed 15% to ₹38,541 crore, backed by strong revival of MSME, gold and two-wheeler loans

Revenue from operations increased to ₹1,900 crore from ₹1,598 crore.

SPORT

TV PICKS

Khelo India Games: DD Sports, 6.15 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Serie A: Vh1, Voot Select & Jio TV, 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
La Liga: MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 5.30 p.m., 7.45 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday).

IN BRIEF

Grizzlies clinch series as Wolves collapse again

LOS ANGELES

Desmond Bane scored 23 points as Memphis Grizzlies stunned Minnesota Timberwolves with another late fourth-quarter rally to score a series-clinching 114-106 victory in the NBA playoffs on Friday.

The result: WC: Minnesota 106 lost to Memphis 114 (Memphis wins series 4-2).

Yuki, Saketh lose in semifinals

CUERNAVACA (MEXICO)

Yuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni lost 4-6, 6-3, [10-4] to Nicolas Mejia and Roberto Quiroz in the doubles semifinals of the $53,120 Challenger tennis here.

The Indian pair collected 30 ATP points and $1080.

In the ITF men's event in Thailand, S.D. Prajwal Dev was beaten 6-3, 3-6, 6-2 by Makoto Ochi of Japan in the semifinals.

The results:

$53,120 Challenger, Cuernavaca, Mexico: Doubles (semifinals): Nicolas Mejia (Col) & Roberto Quiroz (Ecu) bt Yuki Bhambri & Saketh Myneni 4-6, 6-3, [10-4].

$15,000 ITF men, Chiang Rai, Thialand: Semifinals: Makoto Ochi (Jpn) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev 6-3, 3-6, 6-2.

Sindhu returns with bronze

Loses to Yamaguchi in three games

Falling short: Sindhu started on a positive note but couldn't keep the momentum going. •AP

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA

P.V. Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games here on Saturday.

Sindhu started the match on a positive note but couldn't keep the momentum going, losing 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to the top seed and World No. 2 Yamaguchi in the clash, which lasted one hour and six minutes.

This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament after the bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

Korea beats Japan for title; India finishes fifth

WJT

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Korea was strong and sharp as it beat Japan 2-1 in the final of the Asia-Oceania World Junior Tennis under-14 boys tournament at the DLTA Complex on Saturday.

Ren Matsumura gave Japan a flying start by winning the first rubber 6-2, 6-1 against Do Gyeom, but Cho Se Hyuk, the strongest player on view, won both his singles and doubles matches to clinch it for Korea.

In the match for the third place, Damir Zhalgasbay battled for more than three hours and saved two match points from being down 3-5 in the decider to beat Kunanan Pantaratorn of Thailand. The European No. 1 Zangar Nurlanuly outplayed Phopthum Sriwong 6-2, 6-1 in the second rubber.

The top four teams qualified for the World Group competition to be staged later in the season in Europe.

Winning duo: Korea's Do Gyeom and Cho Se Hyuk who prevailed in the doubles. •KAMESH SRINIVASAN

In the match for the fifth place, India perspired to a 2-1 win over Indonesia for which the diminutive Rafalentino Ali Da Costa impressed by winning the second singles against Tanussh Ghildyal. Aditya Mor and Arnav Paparkar sealed it for India by winning the doubles.

Australia had the consolation of placing seventh as it beat Hong Kong thanks to the good work of Cruz Hewitt and Jake Dembo.

It was a commendable exercise by the DLTA and the All India Tennis Associaiton (AITA) to host four successive weeks of Asia-Oceania tennis in which two Indian teams qualified and two others missed narrowly.

The results: Final: Korea bt Japan 2-1 (Do Gyeom lost to Ren Matsumura 2-6, 1-6; Cho Se Hyuk bt Ryo Tabata 6-4, 7-5; Cho Se Hyuk & Do Gyeom bt Eito Komada & Ren Matsumura 7-5, 6-4).

Third place: Kazakhstan bt Thailand 2-0 (Damir Zhalgasbay bt Kunanan Pantaratorn 2-6, 7-6(5), 7-5; Zangar Nurlanuly bt Phopthum Sriwong 6-2, 6-1).

Fifth place: India bt Indonesia 2-1 (Arnav Paparkar bt Muhammad Mouressi Urwah 6-2, 6-4; Tanussh Ghildyal lost to Rafalentino Ali Da Costa 6-4, 0-6, [8-10]); Aditya Mor & Arnav Paparkar bt Rafalentino Ali Da Costa & Muhamad Mouressi Urwah 6-2, 6-1).

Seventh place: Australia bt Hong Kong 2-0 (Cruz Hewitt bt Ngai Hoi Cheung 7-6 (7), 6-4; Jake Dembo bt Siu Chi Nicholas Cheng 6-0, 6-2).

Pavithra sets new pole vault mark

Abhinav and Tanuja also among the record books in discus

KHELO VARSITIES

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Pavithra Venkatesh of Periyar University set a new games record in women's pole vault, scaling a height of 4.01m on the opening day of track and field competitions at the Khelo India University Games here on Saturday.

Pavithra's mark was also a new All India Universities record, erasing her own previous mark of 4.00m, set earlier this year.

There were record-breaking performances in both the men's and women's discus throw as well, with Abhinav (Lovely Professional) and Tanuja (Maharshi Dayanand) triumphing.

Winning jump: Pavithra Venkatesh vaults her way to the gold. •MURALI KUMAR K

In men's hockey, Bangalore City University entered the final following a 5-3 win on penalties over Savitribai Phule University.

In the summit clash, it will take on Guru Nanak Dev University which overcame Punjabi University.

The results (winners all):

Athletics: Men: 100m: A. Vignesh (Mangalore), 10.50s (NMR; Old: 10.68, G. Kathiravan, 2020); **1500m:** Ankit Malik (Maharshi Dayanand) 3:53.45; **Long jump:** V. Sriram (SRM), 7.31m; **Discus:** Abhinav (Lovely Professional), 54.46m (NMR; Old: 50.47, Praveen Kumar Nehra, 2020).

Women: 100m: Dutee Chand (KIIT) 11.68; **1500m:** Radha Singh (Mangalore), 4:31.43; **Pole Vault:** Pavithra Venkatesh (Periyar) 4.01 (NMR; Old: 3.60m, Babita Patel, 2020) (New AIU record; Old: 4.00m, Pavithra, 2022); **Discus:** Tanuja (Maharshi Dayanand), 47.07m (NMR; Old: 46.64m, Seema, 2020).

Hockey (semifinals): Men: Guru Nanak Dev 0 bt Punjabi University 0 [5-3 on penalties]; Bangalore City University 2 (Harish Mutagar 15, Vasant Kumar Gokavi 58) bt Savitribai Phule Pune 2 (Mayur Dhanawade 31, 54) [5-3 on penalties].

Gokulam Kerala holds Churchill Brothers

I-LEAGUE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Defending champion Gokulam Kerala recovered from a goal's deficit to hold former champion Churchill Brothers 1-1 and settle for a point in a championship leg match of the I-League at the Kalyani Stadium on Saturday.

Ikechukwu Kenneth Ngwoke gave Churchill the lead in the 15th minute before Jourdain Fletcher found the equaliser in the 38th minute.

The result saw the holder extend its unbeaten run for the 14th match while staying on top of the standings with 34 points. Churchill remains fourth with 24 points from 14 matches.

Earlier, RoundGlass Punjab FC beat Rajasthan United 2-1 to climb to the third spot in the race for the championship with 27 points from 15 matches.

Rajasthan took the lead through N. Pritam Singh at the half-hour mark but Punjab came back strongly and scored through Ashish Jha (37th minute) and Kurtis Guthrie (41st) to secure the win.

The results: Churchill Brothers FC 1 (Ikechukwu Ngwoke 15) drew with Gokulam Kerala FC 1 (Jourdain Fletcher 38); RoundGlass Punjab FC 2 (Ashish Jha 37, Kurtis Guthrie 41) bt Rajasthan United FC 1 (N. Pritam Singh 30).

Winning start for Sasikiran, Gukesh

SPORTS BUREAU

K. Sasikiran and D. Gukesh made a winning start to their campaigns in the Chessable Sunway International chess tournament in Punta Prima, Spain, on Friday.

Second seed Sasikiran defeated Dutch rival Tim Grutter in 66 moves after Gukesh, seeded fourth, made Canadian Zachary Dukic resign in 35 moves.

However, Soham Das lost to Lithuanian Martynas Buivys. Spain's Jaime Santos Latasa heads the 54 player field in Group A that comprises 11 GMs.

Out of a total prize-fund of €14,5000, the winner will get €3,000.

Tewatia, Miller take Titans past the finish line

Sangwan impresses with a fine spell; Kohli's first fifty in 14 matches to no avail

IPL 2022

SANTADEEP DEY
MUMBAI

Virat Kohli's first fifty in 14 Indian Premier League matches went in vain as an all-round performance from Gujarat Titans saw Hardik Pandya & Co. romp to a six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore to retain the top spot in the standings with its fifth successive win.

The day's titans: Miller and Tewatia put on 79 runs off 40 balls, while Sangwan bowled an incisive spell in the Gujarat side's victory. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Turning the clock back

Kohli on Saturday turned the clock back, exhibiting nimble footwork and impeccable timing. However, RCB ended up a few runs short on the batting-friendly track at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai; 203 being the average winning first innings total here.

Pradeep Sangwan was impressive in his comeback game for the Titans, finishing with figures of 4-0-19-2.

Rahul Tewatia, later adjudged Player-of-the-Match, and David Miller came good again at the death, registering an unbeaten 79-run stand off 40 deliveries.

RCB, having chosen to bat, lost Faf du Plessis for a duck. However, even though Hardik was actively involved in making field changes and encouraging his bowlers, Kohli initially kept picking the gaps with considerable ease. But his strike rate took a nosedive to a final 109.43 after Rajat Patidar fell.

Mohammad Shami got Kohli out in the 17th over with a yorker, which crashed into the base of off-stump.

Dinesh Karthik and Glenn Maxwell made their way back into the hut shortly after.

The GT openers, chasing 175, escaped the PowerPlay unhurt. RCB may have committed a tactical error in not using Wanindu Hasaranga in the first six overs.

A point he proved when he removed Wriddhiman Saha with the wrong'un immediately after being introduced in the eighth over.

His bowling average in T20I is a miserly 10.10 in the PowerPlay, compared to 16.27 between overs seven and 16.

Shahbaz seemed to be turning things around with two big wickets – Shubman Gill and Hardik in his second and third overs.

However, GT, which entered the death overs with Tewatia and Miller at the crease, got over the line with effortless ease.

Innings scan

RCB		GT
44	Dots	34
16	Fours	18
6	Sixes	4
43/1	PP	46/0
8.50	RR	8.92

Next assignment

GT: May 3 vs. **PBKS**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

RCB: May 4 vs. **CSK**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Gujarat Titans	9	8	1	16	0.377
Rajasthan Royals	9	6	3	12	0.450
Lucknow Super Giants	9	6	3	12	0.408
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	10	0.600
Royal Challengers Bangalore	10	5	5	10	-0.558
Delhi Capitals	8	4	4	8	0.695
Punjab Kings	9	4	5	8	-0.470
Kolkata Knight Riders	9	3	6	6	-0.006
Chennai Super Kings	8	2	6	4	-0.538
Mumbai Indians	9	1	8	2	-0.836

After the RR-MI match on April 30

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS
Virat Kohli b Shami 58 *(53b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Saha b Sangwan 0 *(4b)*, Rajat Patidar c Gill b Sangwan 52 *(32b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Maxwell c Rashid b Ferguson 33 *(18b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Dinesh Karthik c Shami b Rashid 2 *(3b)*, Shahbaz Ahmed (not out) 2 *(2b)*, Mahipal Lomror c Miller b Joseph 16 *(8b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-5, w-2): 7; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 170.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-11 (du Plessis, 1.5 overs), 2-110 (Patidar, 14.1), 3-129 (Kohli, 16.4), 4-138 (Karthik, 17.3), 5-150 (Maxwell, 18.3), 6-170 (Lomror, 19.6).

GUJARAT TITANS BOWLING
Shami 4-0-39-1, Sangwan 4-0-19-2, Joseph 4-0-42-1, Rashid 4-0-29-1, Ferguson 4-0-36-1.

GUJARAT TITANS
Wriddhiman Saha c Patidar b Hasaranga 29 *(22b, 4x4)*, Shubman Gill lbw b Shahbaz 31 *(28b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Sai Sudharshan c (sub) b Hasaranga 20 *(14b, 2x4)*, Hardik Pandya c Lomror b Shahbaz 3 *(5b)*, David Miller (not out) 39 *(24b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 43 *(25b, 5x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-4, w-4, nb-1): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 19.3 overs): 174.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-51 (Saha, 7.3 over), 2-68 (Gill, 8.5), 3-78 (Hardik, 10.2), 4-95 (Sudharsan, 12.5).

RCB BOWLING
Maxwell 1-0-10-0, Siraj 4-0-35-0, Hazlewood 3.3-0-36-0, Shahbaz 3-0-26-2, Harshal 4-0-35-0, Hasaranga 4-0-28-2.

Toss: RCB; **MoM:** Tewatia.

Gujarat Titans won by six wkts. with three balls to spare.

Dhoni back as CSK skipper

Jadeja relinquishes captaincy to focus more on his game

Jadeja and Dhoni... change of guard, again. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

In a stunning move, Ravindra Jadeja has decided to relinquish Chennai Super Kings' captaincy to focus and concentrate more on his game.

According to a statement from the club, Dhoni, who had handed over the reins of CSK to Jadeja ahead of the season, has accepted to lead CSK again in the larger interest and to allow Jadeja to focus on his game.

CSK has had a poor campaign to the IPL with six defeats from eight matches and needs to win its remaining matches to have a chance to qualify for the playoffs.

Jadeja has only managed 112 runs from eight innings and picked up five wickets.

CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told *The Hindu*, "Jadeja told us [about the decision] today after discussing with the team-management and we respect his decision."

When asked if it would affect the future plans of the team, considering Jadeja was seen as a long-term option, Viswanathan said, "We are focusing on this year and will try our best to find a way to qualify.

"About the future, we will decide it after this season."

Commenting on the reasons for the poor show, the CEO added that the injuries to bowlers Deepak Chahar and Adam Milne have affected the team combination and the team has been struggling to get the right balance.

Suryakumar aces the chase as Mumbai Indians register its first victory

Tilak and Kishan bat well too; Buttler comes up with a half-century, but Rohit's disciplined bowling unit restricts Rajasthan Royals

SHAYAN ACHARYA
NAVI MUMBAI

At the D.Y. Patil Stadium, fourteen summers ago, Rajasthan Royals had created history by clinching its first and only Indian Premier League title, under the leadership of Australian legend Shane Warne.

And on Saturday, ahead of its fixture against Mumbai Indians at the same venue, Royals celebrated the life and contributions of Warne who passed away in Thailand in early March this year.

Tribute to Warne

The franchise chronicled Warne's journey through a short film and Jos Buttler paid a tribute to the 'first Royal' by hammering a half-century (67, 52b, 5x4, 4x6) and guiding the team to 158 for six. However, it was Mumbai Indians' day out as Suryakumar Yadav's 51 (39b, 5x4, 2x6) and Tilak Varma's 35 (30b, 1x4, 2x6) guided the team to a five-wicket win – its first victory of the season – with four balls to spare.

Timely knock: Suryakumar paced his innings to perfection to put Mumbai Indians on course. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Chasing a target of 159, Mumbai captain Rohit Sharma could score just two runs before offering a catch to Daryl Mitchell off a R. Ashwin delivery. Ishan Kishan looked promising with four fours and a six, but a catch to Sanju Samson off a Trent Boult delivery cut short his stay at the crease for just 26 runs. With the team struggling at 41 for two, Suryakumar and Varma forged an 81-run stand for the third wicket. Mumbai was cruising at 113 for two in 15 overs when Suryakumar was caught by Riyan Parag off Yuzvendra Chahal, and Varma, too, departed soon.

But Tim David kept the team in the hunt with an unbeaten 20. With four needed from the final over, Kieron Pollard was caught in the first ball off Kuldeep Sen. However, Daniel Sams sealed the deal with a six.

Earlier, Buttler and Devdutt Padikkal helped Rajasthan bring up 26 runs before Padikkal was dismissed by Hrithik Shokeen.

Buttler rebuilt with Samson, who hit a couple of sixes off Shokeen in the seventh over before offering a catch to David at deep point off debutant Kartikeya Singh's first over. However, Buttler fought back with four consecutive sixes off Shokeen in the 16th over and brought up his half-century. Shokeen struck on the last delivery of his over, nailing Buttler.

Ashwin came up with a quickfire 21 off nine deliveries, but in the end, that was not enough.

Innings scan

RR		MI
53	Dots	45
12	Fours	12
7	Sixes	7
40/1	PP	41/2
7.90	RR	8.32

Next assignment

RR: May 2 vs. **KKR**
Wankhede, 7.30 p.m..

MI: May 6 vs. **GT**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Jos Buttler c Suryakumar b Shokeen 67 *(52b, 5x4, 4x6)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Pollard b Shokeen 15 *(15b, 3x4)*, Sanju Samson c David b Kartikeya 16 *(7b, 2x6)*, Daryl Mitchell c Rohit b Sams 17 *(20b, 1x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 6 *(14b)*, Riyan Parag c Sams b Meredith 3 *(3b)*, R. Ashwin c Ishan b Meredith 21 *(9b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Trent Boult (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-10): 12; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-26 (Padikkal, 4.2 overs), 2-54 (Samson, 7.2), 3-91 (Mitchell, 14.1), 4-126 (Buttler, 15.6), 5-130 (Parag, 17.1), 6-155 (Ashwin, 19.1).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Sams 4-0-32-1, Bumrah 4-0-27-0, Shokeen 3-0-47-2, Meredith 4-0-24-2, Kartikeya 4-0-19-1, Pollard 1-0-8-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS
Rohit Sharma c Mitchell b Ashwin 2 *(5b)*, Ishan Kishan c Samson b Boult 26 *(18b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Parag b Chahal 51 *(39b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Tilak Varma c Parag b Prasidh 35 *(30b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Kieron Pollard c Mitchell b Sen 10 *(14b)*, Tim David (not out) 20 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Daniel Sams (not out) 6 *(1b, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-8): 11; Total (for five wkts. in 19.2 overs): 161.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-23 (Rohit, 2.3 overs), 2-41 (Ishan, 5.4), 3-122 (Suryakumar, 14.6), 4-122 (Tilak, 15.2), 5-155 (Pollard, 19.1),

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 3-0-26-1, Prasidh 4-0-29-1, R. Ashwin 4-0-21-1, Mitchell 1-0-20-0, Chahal 4-0-33-1, Sen 3.2-0-29-1.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.

MoM: Suryakumar.

Mumbai Indians won by five wkts. with four balls to spare.

Ruturaj. • SPORTZPICS/ IPL

Time running out for Super Kings

Sunrisers hope to bounce back from previous game debacle

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

It may have entered the Indian Premier League's 2022 edition as defending champion, but for a better part of its campaign so far, Chennai Super Kings has hardly shown any signs of being a champion outfit.

Super Kings are languishing towards the bottom of the table with just two wins from eight games so far. With M.S. Dhoni back at the helm after Ravindra Jadeja relinquished the captaincy on Saturday, the team will definitely know that time is fast running out as it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Maharashtra Cricket Association's International Stadium on Sunday night.

Besides a misfiring top-order, lack of wicket-taking bowlers has haunted the Super Kings so far.

It will be interesting to see if Matheesha Pathirana, the slinging pacer from Sri Lanka, is handed a debut during the south-Indian derby.

Super Kings will also be looking forward to good performances from Ruturaj Gaikwad and Mukesh Choudhary for whom this is the home ground.

While opener Gaikwad has had a largely quiet season, left-arm pacer Mukesh has been one of the bright spots in Super Kings' campaign.

Best pace quartet

While Super Kings will be looking forward to unleashing their firepower against the best pace quartet of the tournament, Sunrisers will be hoping to bounce back after a disappointing loss to Gujarat Titans in its last outing.

Can Kane Williamson's men record another win against the Super Kings? Over to Sunday night!

TODAY'S MATCHES

DELHI CAPITALS vs. LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
WANKHEDE, 3.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 1
DC 0 | LSG 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by 6 wickets, 2022

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS
MCA STADIUM, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 17
SRH 5 | CSK 12

PREVIOUS MEETING
SRH won by 8 wickets, 2022

STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

DC has a score to settle against LSG

SANTADEEP DEY
MUMBAI

The Delhi Capitals (DC) will be out to exact revenge when it meets Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in an IPL return leg fixture at the Wankhede Stadium here on Sunday.

The DC bowlers ran into a marauding Quinton de Kock in their previous Indian Premier League (IPL) meeting on April 7.

The South African wicket-keeper-batter's 52-ball 80 saw LSG register a convincing six-wicket victory.

DC and LSG head into Sunday's fixture on the back of emphatic wins over Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings, respectively.

de Kock. • SPORTZPICS/ IPL

Super Giants' ordinary bowling performances in the PowerPlay this season may hand Capitals an early advantage, with the franchise possessing a formidable opening pair in Prithvi Shaw and David Warner.

Only Shikhar Dhawan is ahead of Warner when it comes to the number of runs scored in the first six overs since IPL 2016.

Capitals have scored the second-lowest runs at the death this season (267).

Wary of threat

They will be wary of the threat posed by the Super Giants bowlers, who have run rings around batters during the slog overs.

Lucknow's 22 wickets in the last four overs are the best by any team, thus far.

Pujara scores second double ton for Sussex

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE (UK)

Cheteshwar Pujara scored his second double century for Sussex on the third day of the match against Durham in the County Championship Division Two here on Saturday.

Pujara made 203 off 334 balls with 24 fours, in the team's total of 538 for a lead of 315. Durham was all out for 223 in its first innings on Friday.

Ranji knockouts deferred by two days

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

The Ranji Trophy knockouts have been pushed back by two days, with the quarterfinals now set to begin in Bengaluru on June 6. As a result, the final will be played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium from June 22 to 26.

The BCCI secretary Jay Shah sent the revised itinerary, along with ground allotment and telecast arrangement details, to BCCI affiliates in an email on Saturday. It is understood that the unavailability of the Chinnaswamy Stadium before June 22 for the final was the main reason.

India and South Africa are scheduled to play a T20I at the international venue in Bengaluru on June 19. As a result, the final could not be played at the Chinnaswamy from June 20, as announced on Thursday.

The schedule: Quarterfinals: June 6-10; **Semifinals:** June 14-18; **Final:** June 22-26.

Real Madrid romps home to 35th La Liga title

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
MADRID

Real Madrid won a record-extending 35th La Liga title after two goals from Rodrygo spurred it to a 4-0 win over Espanyol on Saturday.

The win also made Carlo Ancelotti the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues – England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Real is on 81 points with four games to go. It is 17 points ahead of nearest rival Sevilla.

That winning feeling: Real Madrid players celebrate. • AP

Manchester City returned to the top of the Premier League standings after a rampant 4-0 victory at Leeds United on Saturday.

Liverpool had regained top spot earlier in the day with a 1-0 win at Newcastle United, putting pressure on the champion to respond against a Leeds side battling to avoid relegation this season.

Norwich was relegated after a 2-0 defeat at Aston Villa left it 13 points adrift of safety with just four games remaining.

The results:

Premier League: Newcastle 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Keita 19); Aston Villa 2 (Watkins 41, Ings 90+3) bt Norwich City 0; Leeds 0 lost to Manchester City 4 (Rodri 13, Ake 54, Jesus 78, Fernandinho 90+3).

Southampton 1 (Romeu 9) lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Eze 60, Zaha 90+2).

Wolves 0 lost to Brighton 3 (Mac Allister 42-pen, Trossard 70, Bissouma 86); Watford 1 (Tarkowski 8-og) lost to Burnley 2 (Cork 83, Brownhill 86).

La Liga: Real Madrid 4 (Rodrygo 33, 43, Asensio 55, Benzema 81) bt Espanyol 0.

Serie A: Napoli 6 (Koulibaly 7, Osimhen 15, Lozano 19, Mertens 21, 54, Rahmani 80) bt Sassuolo 1 (Lopez 86).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Haaland 18-pen, 30-pen, 62) lost to VfL Bochum 4 (Polter 3, Holtmann 8, Locadia 81, Pantovic 85-pen); Mainz 05 3 (Burkardt 18, Niakhate 27, Barreiro 57) bt Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 33.

On Friday: La Liga: Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 7) drew with Cadiz 1 (Perez 66).

IN BRIEF

Kyrgyzstan's Palkina banned for 16 years

PARIS

Kyrgyzstan's Ksenia Palkina has been fined $100,000 and banned from playing tennis until at least 2029 for match-fixing, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said on Friday. The ban is for 16 years with six of them suspended. Palink admitted the charges of at a French tournament in November 2019, ITIA said. AFP

'Super agent' Mino Raiola passes away

MILAN

Mino Raiola, one of the most powerful agents in football who represented Paul Pogba and Erling Haaland, has died at the age of 54, his family announced on Saturday. "In infinite sorrow we share the passing of the most caring and amazing Football Agent that ever was," the Italian's family said in a message on Twitter. AFP

United's Rangnick named Austria coach

VIENNA

Manchester United manager Ralf Rangnick has been appointed coach of Austria's national team, the federation said Friday, but he will continue in a consultancy role at the club. AFP

LOCAL ROUND-UP

Pavandeep, Siddarth star in Panthers' win

BENGALURU:

Pavandeep Bharadakane (84) and Siddarth Ram (50) helped Panthers CA defeat School Of Cricket by three runs in the under-12 section of the Tiger Cup here on Saturday.

The scores: Under-12: Panthers CA 189/3 in 30 overs (Pavandeep Bharadakane 84, Siddarth Ram 50) bt School Of Cricket 186/8 in 30 overs (Anirudh 43, Pratham Rao 35, Kabir Bhambri 27).

Under-14: Kapil CC 198/9 in 30 overs (J. Daniel 55, Monish Gowda 48) bt Panthers CA 195 in 30 overs (Sriram Kasi 51, Govinda Raju 62, Monish Gowda 3/11).

BFC, Boca Juniors emerge champions

BFC Academy and Boca Juniors emerged as the under-10 and under-8 champions respectively of the KSFA Youth football premier league here.

The results (finals):

U-10: BFC Academy bt Black Panthers 2-0;

U-8: Boca Juniors bt BFC Academy 0-0 (via toss of coin, after penalties ended 3-3).

'My focus will be to make our shooters mentally strong'

New National rifle coach Karmakar wants to prepare a good team for Paris Games

SHOOTING

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

The newly appointed chief rifle coach of India, Joydeep Karmakar, feels the country's rifle shooters need to be mentally strong to produce their best during big events like the Olympics.

Karmakar, who missed the bronze by a whisker in the men's 50m rifle prone event at the 2012 London Olympics, said that he will be focusing on the mental strength of his wards when he assumes his new role.

"After reading reports appearing in the media, I found that our shooters are failing in the big arena apparently because they are unable to handle pressure. It is also possible that most of them are unable to peak at the right time," said Karmakar during a meet-the-press organised by the Calcutta Sports Journalists Club.

The Olympian, who has been running an academy in the city, said that he has been given a contract till 2025 and would like to prepare a good team for the 2024 Paris Games.

Confident: Joydeep Karmakar says he will able to do justice to his new role. • FILE PHOTO

Retirement

"I did not formally announce my retirement from the sport. But after receiving the confirmation of my appointment as the chief coach from the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), I have decided to bring the curtain down on my career as a shooter," said Karmakar, adding that he will be joining the National camp ahead of the World Cup scheduled in Baku from May 25.

Relating to his experience as a shooter, Karmakar said he will be able to do justice to his new role as he encountered a lot of hardships before making it to the Olympics final.

"I feel I will be doing a better job in my new role as I personally didn't have a coach ever since I started my career in 1989. I had to learn and unlearn many times from different experiences to reach my level of excellence," Karmakar said.

Guardiola yet to decide on staying at City

Spaniard says 'I'm incredibly happy and could not be in a better place'

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said on Friday that Jurgen Klopp's decision to extend his stay at Liverpool will not have any influence on his own future plans. Klopp signed a two-year contract extension on Thursday to keep the Reds boss at Anfield until at least 2026.

Guardiola's current City deal expires at the end of next season and he has yet to commit to prolonging his spell with the Premier League champion.

It remains to be seen whether Guardiola will stick around to maintain his duel with Klopp, with City and Liverpool embroiled in another tense Premier League title race this term.

Undecided: Guardiola has indicated his continuing at City will not be influenced by Klopp's decison. • REUTERS

"Congratulations to Jurgen and Liverpool," Guardiola told reporters. "I think it's really good for the Premier League. I wish him all the best for the future."

The former Barcelona and Bayern Munich manager said of his life at City: "I'm enjoying this part of the season and after we'll have time.

"I'm incredibly happy and could not be in a better place to be working.

"I cannot visualise a better place but it's not just me, it's many things, other situations. With calmness, we are going to take the decision we are going to take."

Lauds Salah

Guardiola offered congratulations to Mohamed Salah, who was voted the Football Writers' Association Player of the Year on Friday, but laced the compliment with what might be perceived as a back-handed swipe at Klopp.

"Congratulations to Salah. Jurgen said they have the best keeper, the second-best keeper in the world, the best central defender, the best holding midfielder, the best striker. So it's normal they win all the awards," he said.

Guardiola added England right-back Kyle Walker might not play again in the current campaign. Walker has missed City's last four games with an ankle injury suffered against Atletico Madrid.

Australia names 34-man squad for full-fledged Sri Lanka tour

Marcus Harris dropped from the Test team

CRICKET

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Australia dropped Ashes opener Marcus Harris on Friday from an otherwise settled squad for the two-Test tour of Sri Lanka in June and July.

Scott Boland remains the back-up seamer ahead of Jhye Richardson in the Pat Cummins-led 16-man squad for the world's top-ranked Test team. They are part of an overall 34-man squad named for the all-format tour which also includes three T20s and five One-Day Internationals.

Cummins will not play the T20s, while spinner Adam Zampa will miss the entire tour due to the impending birth of his first child.

Batsman Harris had a poor Ashes at the start of the year but was part of the victorious Test squad in Pakistan in March. He together with Boland and Richardson will still have a chance to impress the selectors as part of an Australian-A side that will play four matches in Sri Lanka at the start of June.

Captain Pat Cummins... raring to go. • AFP

"It's incredibly exciting to have an Australia-A component which offers the further flexibility and opportunity for players to be available for and cross over into all squads," selection chief George Bailey said.

Josh Hazlewood, Mitchell Starc, David Warner, Steve Smith, Matthew Wade and Glenn Maxwell all return to the white-ball squads having missed the recent limited-overs matches in Pakistan.

The squads:

Tests: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Ashton Agar, Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Josh Inglis, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Swepson and David Warner.

ODIs: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Agar, Carey, Cummins, Green, Hazlewood, Head, Inglis, Labuschagne, Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Smith, Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Swepson and Warner.

T20s: Finch (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Agar, Hazlewood, Inglis, Marsh, Maxwell, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, Smith, Starc, Stoinis, Swepson, Matthew Wade and Warner.

Australia-A squad: Abbott, Boland, Peter Handscomb, Aaron Hardie, Marcus Harris, Head, Henry Hunt, Inglis, Matthew Kuhnemann, Nic Maddinson, Todd Murphy, Josh Philippe, Matt Renshaw, Richardson, Tanveer Sangha and Mark Steketee.

Madappa, Rashid and Avani make the grade

ASIAD GOLF

SPORTS REPORTER
BENGALURU

Viraj Madappa, Rashid Khan and Avani Prashanth qualified for the Asian Games at the conclusion of the IGU Asian Games golf selection trials held at KGA here on Saturday.

Madappa and Rashid, who finished in the top two in the men's category, will join Anirban Lahiri and Shubhankar Sharma in the Indian men's contingent at the Asian Games.

Superb show

Avani Prashanth put on a superb show to finish on top of the women's leaderboard. Avani will join Aditi Ashok and Tvesa Malik in the Indian women's contingent.

The selection trial was held over five rounds, with the best four rounds considered for the final overall card.

Lahiri, Shubhankar, Aditi and Tvesa – the country's leading players – had already earned direct spots for the Asian Games.

The Asian Games will commence at Hangzhou (China) on September 10.

The scores:

Best four out of five rounds: Men (top four): 271: Viraj Madappa (66, 68, 71, 69, 67); **272:** Rashid Khan (68, 73, 67, 66, 71); **274:** Karandeep Kochhar (69, 69, 69, 67, 71); **278:** Krishnav Nikhil Chopraa (72, 69, 71, 71, 67), Veer Ahlawat (66, 73, 69, 71, 72).

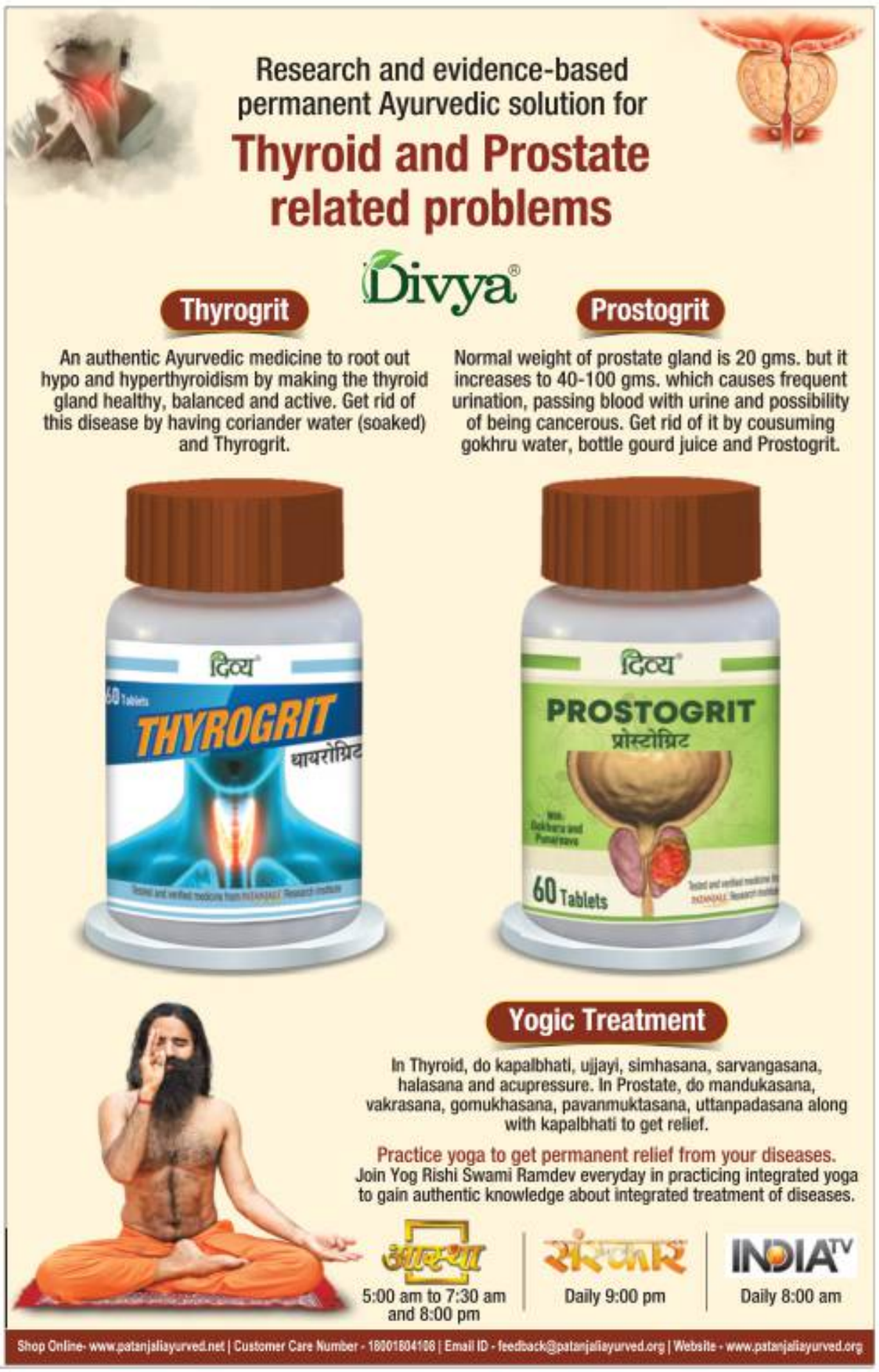
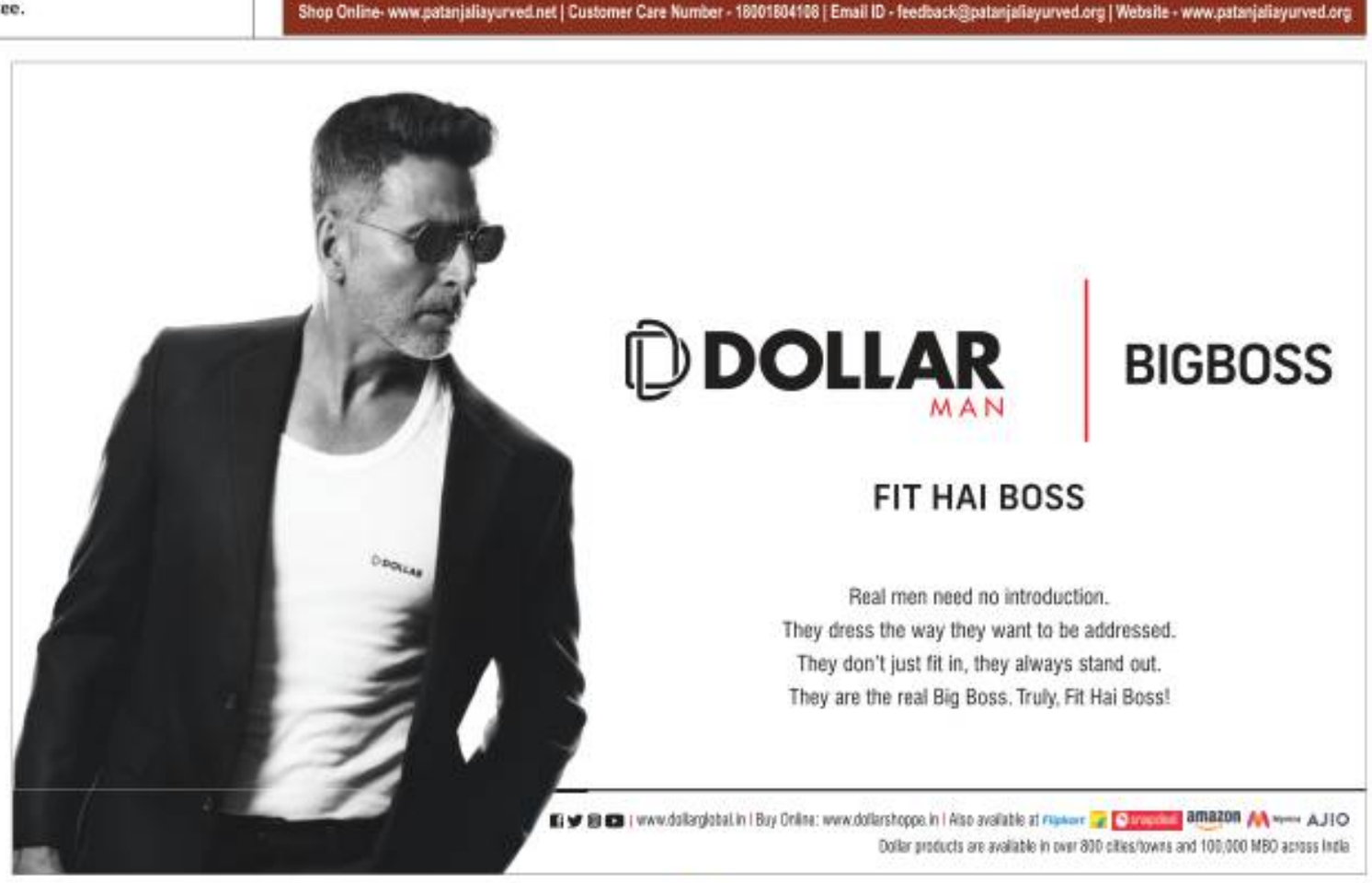
Women (top three): 274: Avani Prashanth (74, 64, 69, 70, 71); **276:** Jahanvi Bakshi (69, 69, 69, 69, 70); **283:** Hitaashee Bakshi (68, 74, 74, 74, 66).

Ministry allocates grant for judokas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry has sanctioned financial assistance to the tune of ₹5 crore towards Indian judokas' preparation for this year's Asian Games and other international events following the de-recognition of the national federation recently.

The ministry de-recognised the Judo Federation of India on April 22 for non-compliance in holding fresh elections in February 2022.

But the ministry and Sports Authority of India formed a committee which conducted trials for a month-long national preparatory camp for the Asian Games and other international competitions, starting May 1.

According to a SAI statement, 112 athletes will be part of the camp.